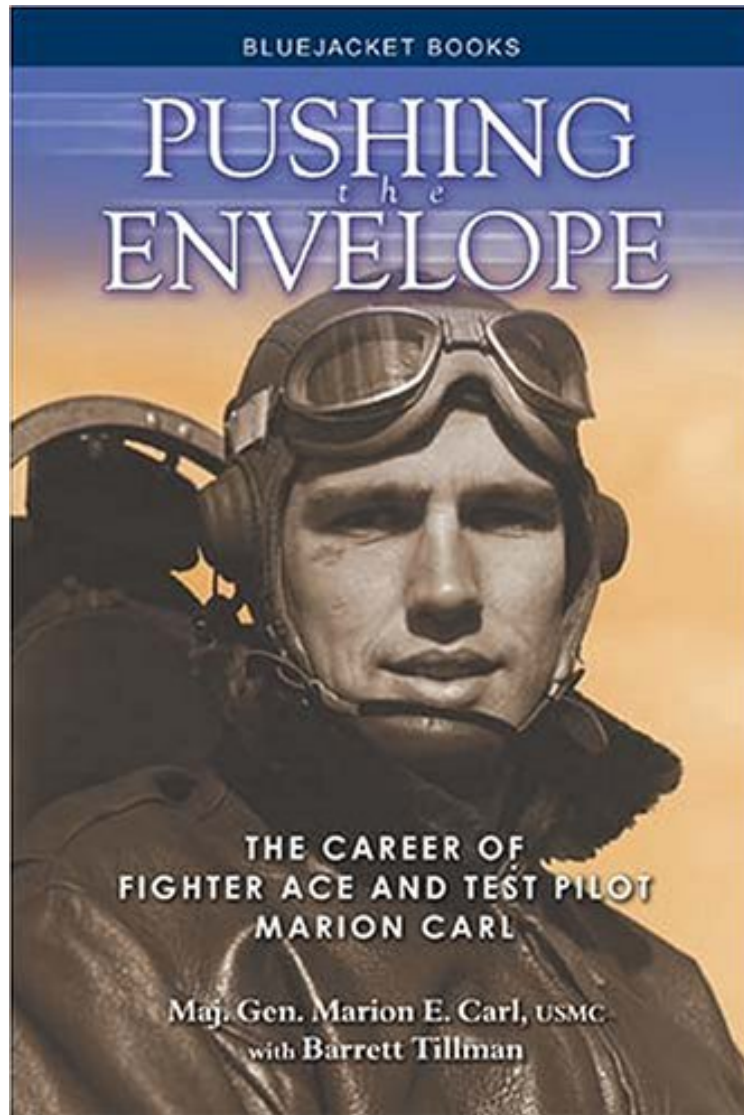


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Pushing the Envelope: The Career of Fighter Ace and Test Pilot Marion Carl

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Marion E. Carl, Barrett Tillman : Pushing the Envelope: The Career of Fighter Ace and Test Pilot Marion Carl before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Pushing the Envelope: The Career of Fighter Ace and Test Pilot Marion Carl:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A book worth reading !By Robert W. Reeves I grew up in Oregon and Marion Carl spoke at our high school when I was a student. He became one of my hero's and is partly

responsible for my becoming an Air Force pilot and having a military career. The book is well written and covers the life of one of the true patriots of our time. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A true American Hero! By Derek Ness Great book!! A+! Recommend it for everyone! A true inspiration!! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. We lost a great hero when we lost By Lambert Campbell I did not know at the time that my CO in Korea was a war hero at the first battle in WW II. I was impressed by him then and followed his career until his murder. We lost a great hero when we lost him

First published in 1994, this stirring autobiography of a fighter and test pilot takes readers full throttle through Carl's imposing list of "firsts." Beginning with his World War II career, he gained such commendations as first Marine Corps ace, among the first Marines ever to fly a helicopter, and first Marine to land aboard an aircraft carrier. His combat duty included the momentous battles at Midway and Guadalcanal. Not one to rest on his laurels, however, he participated in photoreconnaissance operations over Red China in 1955 and flew missions in Vietnam. In peacetime he gained fame for "pushing the envelope" as a test pilot, adding the world's altitude and speed records to his wartime feats and becoming the first U.S. military aviator to wear a full pressure suit. Such achievements also led to Carl's being the first living Marine admitted to the Naval Aviation Hall of Honor, as well as the first Marine to be named to the Navy Carrier Aviation Test Pilots Hall of Honor. This very readable memoir is as forthright and compelling as the man it chronicles.

From Publishers Weekly Carl's life story is the stuff of film scripts and TV miniseries. At Midway and Guadalcanal he became the first Marine ace of WW II. He was a test pilot in the pioneer days of jet aviation, flying early versions of almost every model of fighter adopted by the U.S. armed forces and flew clandestine reconnaissance missions over China in the 1950s. More than a pilot with the "right stuff," Carl, as a brigadier general, commanded the first Marines to land in Vietnam; in 1973 he retired as Inspector General of the Marine Corps. Unfortunately, Carl's cursory, lifeless narrative reads like a collection of after-action reports. Even the collaboration of Tillman, a leading aviation writer, fails to give Carl's career its appropriately dramatic impact. Photos not seen by PW. Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Kirkus SA blunt, spare autobiography from a past president of the American Fighter Aces Association. Carl neither minces nor wastes words in recalling a distinguished career as a US Marine Corps aviator, which began immediately after his 1938 graduation from Oregon State and ended 35 years later when he retired with the rank of major general. Having earned his wings in 1939, the author (now 78) was an early-bird arrival in WW II's Pacific theater. Flying F4F Wildcats in the unfriendly skies above Midway and Guadalcanal, he downed 16 Japanese planes. Sent stateside to be showcased as the USMC's first ace, Carl wooed and won his wife (then a Powers model). He survived a second tour in the Solomons, adding two more kills to his victory total, and ended the war as a test pilot. Adapting easily to the jet age, the author set a variety of altitude and speed records that (though long since broken) attest to his willingness to push the envelope, i.e., take experimental aircraft (and, it would seem, his own convictions) to, even beyond, their theoretical limits. He led photoreconnaissance flights over Red China in the mid-1950s and logged more than 100 missions in Vietnam. In the course of his lengthy service, Carl met and took the measure of many notables. While he remembers Joe Foss, Melvin Laird, Charles Lindbergh, and a host of lesser lights with fondness, the author has precious little use for Greg (Pappy) Boyington (of Black Sheep Squadron fame), Jacqueline Cochrane, LBJ, Ted Kennedy, Robert McNamara, and John Wayne. In a series of parting shots, moreover, he offers considered, if politically incorrect, pronouncements on gun control, the handling of the Tailhook sex scandal, women in combat, and other touchy issues. The dead-honest memoir of an accomplished military professional. The forthright text has 13 contemporary photos. -- Copyright ©1994, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved. About the Author The late Maj. Gen. Marion E. Carl retired from the U.S. Marine Corps in 1973 with eighteen aerial combat victories and 14,000 flight hours. Award-winning aviation writer Barrett Tillman is the author of books on the Corsair, Crusader, Hellcat, and Dauntless Dive Bomber, all published by the Naval Institute Press.