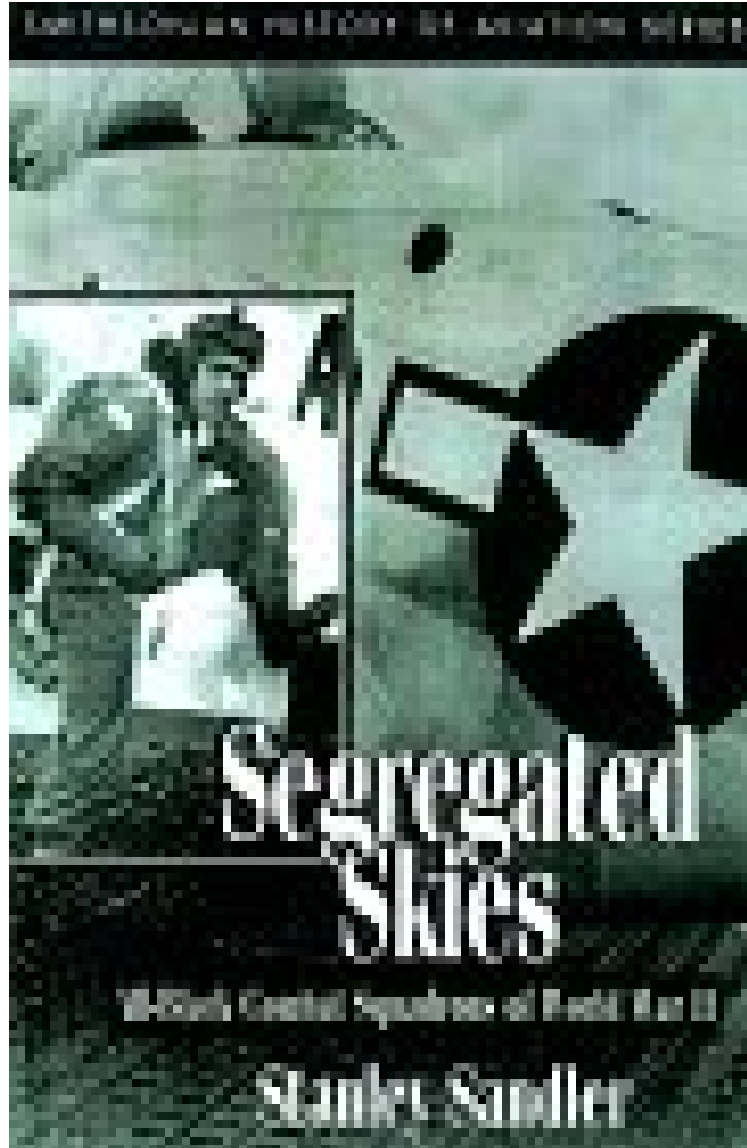


(Mobile pdf) Segregated Skies: All-Black Combat Squadrons of WW II

Segregated Skies: All-Black Combat Squadrons of WW II

SANDLER STANLEY

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SANDLER STANLEY : Segregated Skies: All-Black Combat Squadrons of WW II before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Segregated Skies: All-Black Combat Squadrons of WW II:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I am proud and happy to have served with so many nationalities without a ...By COLONEL "C" What a detailed and informative work of history. I had no idea the struggles that were experienced by our African-American personnel who were in the military from late 1930's through the 1940's. I have

to admit that my career in the military did NOT have even a hint of prejudice, as was conveyed in those earlier years. I am proud and happy to have served with so many nationalities without a hint of discrimination in all of my career. I would highly recommend anyone interested in our American history and our cultural difference, please read this book! 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not bad, very objective
By William C. Pierce
This book has a hard time deciding if it is a scholarly work or a popular narrative. The style attempts to mix close analysis and an engaging storyline. These two elements are incompatible paragraph by paragraph, and bog each other down. The author changes references to major figures' titles, given names, and especially rank, back and forth without order or explanation. It smacks of rushed scholarship. Despite these flaws, the book tells an important story. It covers a lot of old material on the Tuskegee Airmen, but offers up some important new aspects: Evolution of Air Force policy on integration and race, and the role of Black Airmen in the Bomber forces. These two themes were largely based on original research and interviews, The general background of the Tuskegee airmen less so. In short, this book has some really good new material on racial politics in the US military during and just after World War II. Its coverage of the combat exploits of the all black US fighter squadrons is objective, but nothing new. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A STORY DESERVING OF WIDER RECOGNITION
By KOMET
This is a wonderful book which sheds much needed light on an aspect of the Second World War that has either been overlooked or marginalized for much too long -- the contributions made by African Americans who served in the United States Army Air Force (USAAF). Herein the reader will become acquainted with the history of the 99th Pursuit Squadron, the 332nd Fighter Group, and the 477th Composite Group (which, owing to racial bias among the USAAF's leadership, never saw combat). Taken together, these units constituted the Tuskegee Airmen.

"Sandler does a fine job of emphasizing the unjustness of the segregation policy as well as the excellence of the men who flew in segregated skies. He provides a good look at this lesser known aspect of (World War II).--"Retired Officer". 38 photos.

From Publishers Weekly
Sandler chronicles the pioneering efforts of the all-black 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Medium Bomber Group during WW II, emphasizing how painfully aware the pilots and ground crew were of having to "prove" themselves as no white squadron had to. For example, Air Corps chief Gen. Henry Arnold resented their presence in his service: "The Negro tires easily," he wrote in a notorious memo. In a postwar evaluation, the Air Force concluded that the 332nd was a mediocre outfit, "not worth the time and effort"; but Sandler (*The Emergence of the Modern Capital Ship*) argues that the record demonstrates that it was a "good to average" group whose efficiency was warped by the demands of racial segregation. The unit's war record was unique in one respect: in its hundreds of escort missions, the 332nd did not lose a single bomber to enemy aircraft. The 477th never saw action. Drawn from interviews and official documents, this important history reveals how the wartime experience of a relative handful of black pilots and crewmen opened the way for racial integration of the armed forces within five years after the end of the war. Photos. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Library Journal
Military historian Sandler (*The Emergence of the Modern Capital Ship* , Univ. of Delaware Pr., 1979) portrays a two-front war--against racism at home and the enemy abroad--as he details the World War II experiences of blacks in the three fighter groups that shattered the U.S. Army Air Corps' all-white policy. He begins with the government's 1940 decision to develop "colored personnel for the aviation service" by training them in isolation outside Tuskegee, Alabama, and concludes with descriptions of combat in North Africa and southern Europe, highlighting whites' stubborn resistance and blacks' determination to succeed against the odds. This book complements Richard M. Delfiume's *Desegregation of the U.S. Armed Forces, 1939-1953* (LJ 7/69) and Phillip McGuire's *He, Too, Spoke for Democracy: Judge Hastie, World War II, and the Black Soldier* (Greenwood, 1988). For military, aviation, and African American collections.- Thomas J. Davis, Univ. at Buffalo, N.Y. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc.
From Kirkus s
An expert recounting of the Tuskegee Airmen, the four all- black fighter squadrons that pioneered the desegregation of the US Army Air Corps. Sandler, a military historian, demonstrates how WW II, which became a crusade against racism, caused the beginning of the end of the racial polarization of American society. He tells how--even though blacks performed with distinction in the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, and WW I--military brass consistently undermined and failed to promote black military men. Under some pressure (the Selective Service Act provided for induction of blacks in proportion to their representation in the general population), the Army inducted blacks into its Air Corps, at first relegating them to menial noncombatant tasks like grave- registration, housecleaning, supply, and transport. With the organization of four black squadrons in July 1941, however, the combat role of blacks in aviation began. Sandler relates how black airmen had to overcome prejudice during the training and "testing and proving" phases of their service, and how they showed themselves the equal of white airmen in battle over North Africa and Italy. The author contends that the success of the black airmen was more than simply a matter of pride to the black community: It added impetus to the argument that blacks' fight against Jim Crow was as important as the fight against Hitler. Sandler goes on to present two contrasting stories of black air groups, which demonstrate the different ways in which the units obtained the respect of the white military establishment: The 332nd Fighter Group became an effective and important

air unit, while the 477th Bombardment Group never entered combat and staged a historic nonviolent protest against discrimination. Overall, Sandler says, "the experiences and accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen...ensured that there would be no more segregated skies." First-rate, sobering, and inspired. (Forty bw illustrations- -not seen.) --
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