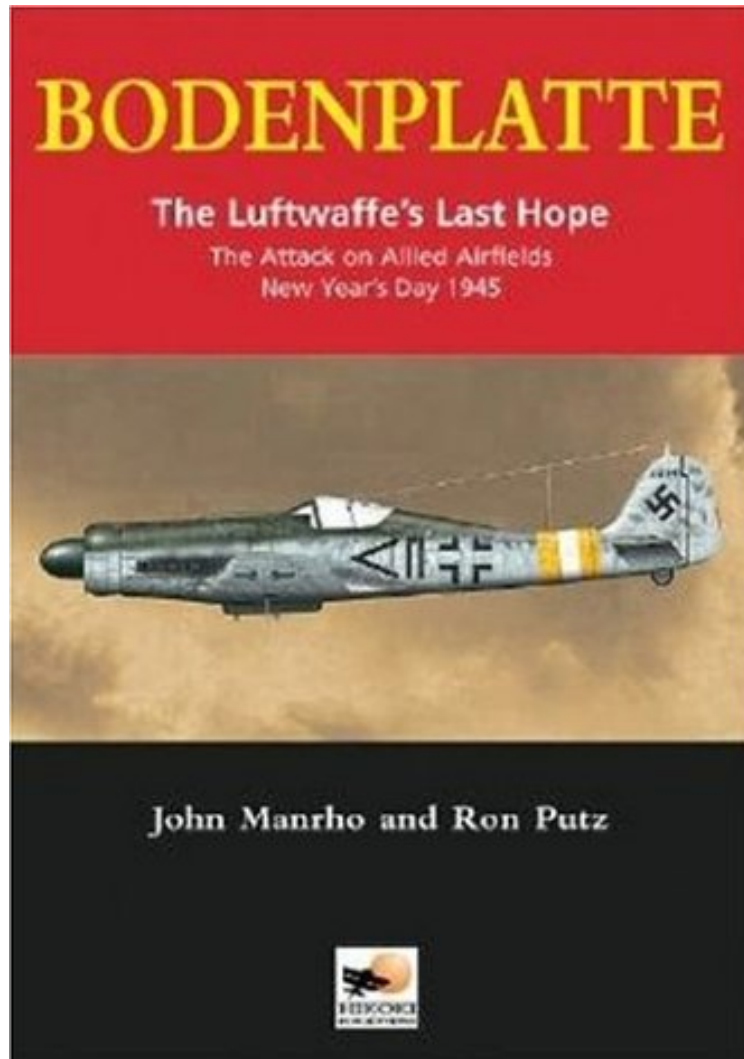


[Download] Bodenplatte: The Luftwaffe's Last Hope -The Attack on Allied Airfields, New Year's Day 1945

Bodenplatte: The Luftwaffe's Last Hope -The Attack on Allied Airfields, New Year's Day 1945

John Manrho

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John Manrho : Bodenplatte: The Luftwaffe's Last Hope -The Attack on Allied Airfields, New Year's Day 1945 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bodenplatte: The Luftwaffe's Last Hope -The Attack on Allied Airfields, New Year's Day 1945:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great BookBy Mad MaxI read this book several years ago when it was released in paperback by Stackpole and have wanted the hardback copy for awhile since it has more photos. The detail of this book is amazing to me and it is an excellent read on the Luftwaffe's last gasp at turning the tide of the war in their favor. What is amazing to me is the author was able to detail the fate of most of the pilots that were shot down

and killed, where they crashed, where they were buried or if they are still missing. Overall just a great book. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Hitler's New Years SurpriseBy CustomerThis book starts with the 1944 plan by Galland's fighter staff to send a large force against the marauding daylight bombers and knock down so many that the country would have breathing room to equip units with jets and advanced fighters. This idea was hijacked to be the aerial counterpart to the 'Battle of the Bulge' (Dec 16, 1944). However, bad weather intervened- as it also kept the Allied fighter-bombers away from Nazi units surging into Belgium. German forces feared 'Jabo' attacks when skies cleared again. So the strike force was dedicated to crippling those Jabos. The Luftwaffe's air strike was postponed to New Year's Day 1945. Plans were secret; leaders briefed at last minute. Each unit was assigned specific Allied airfields, led part-way by night fighters, and once across the battle lines they would sweep over their targets to strafe parked airplanes. Sections begin with a map and units involved. Each page shows young men in late-war gear, standing in huts or by their planes. From the first, the plans fell apart. Ground fire was fierce, some early Allied patrols intercepted formations. The longer raiders stayed overhead, the greater their chance of being shot down. Novice pilots were hard-pressed to fly low, aim at and hit targets, and dodge other planes in the air. Eindhoven, for example, was hit hard; at least 83 planes destroyed. Gasoline, bomb dumps and rockets exploded too. Approximately 208 of the attacking force of 1,035 never returned. [These numbers are not easily found in any 'Totals' listing- and the blow-by-blow actions throw a lot of minutia at the reader.] Many fell close to the targets; others limped away or ran afoul of prowling fighters. The book notes that smoke plumes might be visible, yet too inaccessible to reach, thus, MIA airmen could have fallen in deep woods. Appendices list Luftwaffe order of battle (with units, their base, and their targets), Luftwaffe aircraft ready-vs-flown, German losses (by aircraft I.D., pilot names, crash location), Luftwaffe aerial claims. Also Allied order of battle, aerial losses (with pilot condition), ground losses, Aerial combat claims, Allied ground personnel casualties, and the claims of Anti-aircraft units on the fields. See also: Battle of the Airfields. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Definitely a definitive account....By lordhootBodenplatte proves to be Luftwaffe's last major aerial offensive of World War II and this book shows why this raid proves to be so ill-fated, ill conceived and badly planned. Superbly researched by the two authors with hundreds of first hand accounts that gives much clarity to this often overlooked one day effort that totally compromised the Luftwaffe military effort along the western front for the rest of the war. The book is divided so each fighter wing (Jagdgeschwader) who took part of the operation had their own chapter. Each chapter shows how they prepared and how they fared during the New Year Day raid. As in most cases, these Jagdgeschwadern did not fare very well at all. It pretty interesting to read that almost 50% of all Luftwaffe losses were due to anti-aircraft, mostly Allied although German lost some more to their own anti-aircraft units. The loss of German pilots proves to be the hinchpin of doom for the Luftwaffe while Allies easily replaced all pilots and planes lost in that raid. The book read pretty well, there are over 400 black and white photos that goes with the account given and many of photos proves to be interesting ones. The book is written with certain German centric point of view although first hand accounts were given from both sides. There is also a very detail appendix of who shot down who, what unit lost what planes and pilots and host of other material that reflect on the details of the raid. The research, as I write again, proves to be superb. If there was a weakness, I would say that the maps could have been better design. Also, this book wasn't meant to be read by beginner reader. The authors fully expect their readers to understand the full aspect of World War II history during this period and readily be able to tell the difference between a FW190D and ME109G. There isn't much in this book for elementary education on World War II. The authors take you straight into the military narrative of the raid. Overall, a definitive account of Bodenplatte Raid and as it turned out, it wasn't much hope for the Luftwaffe after this. The book come highly recommended for experience readers. (Funny, Hikoki Publications - Hikoki is Japanese word for "plane".)

In the early morning of New Year's Day 1945, as the last great German offensive in Ardennes slowly smoldered to an end and the Allies prepared for a final year of war in northwest Europe, against all odds, the Luftwaffe -- assumed to be starved of fuel and fighting spirit -- launched a massive, surprise, low-level strike targeted at Allied tactical airfields throughout France, Belgium, and Holland. Planned under great secrecy, the raid gambled on using the bulk of Luftwaffe fighter assets on the Western Front, with the aim of decimating significant elements of both the British 2nd RAF and the USAAF on the ground. As the winter skies lightened, more than 900 German aircraft -- most of them Fw 190s and Bf 109s -- swept across vulnerable and unsuspecting airfields, including Brussels and Eindhoven. Altogether, more than 200 Allied aircraft were destroyed, with a further 150 damaged. But for the Luftwaffe it was a Pyrrhic victory; 271 fighters were lost and many more damaged. Worse still, of the 213 pilots lost, more than 20 were valuable formation leaders. Using hundreds of eye-witness accounts and rare photographs, this is a definitive study.