

# Bombing Europe: The Illustrated Exploits of the Fifteenth Air Force

Kevin A. Mahoney

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**Kevin A. Mahoney : Bombing Europe: The Illustrated Exploits of the Fifteenth Air Force** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bombing Europe: The Illustrated Exploits of the Fifteenth Air Force:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Great photos, okay narrative By Marc L. Tavasci I was hoping this book would be a pictorial history of the 15th AF in World War II with a narrative of their combat operations--it wasn't. Instead, it was mostly a collection of stories about the individuals who served in the 15th and what they went through on a variety of combat missions. Lots of tales of bombers being shot up and shot down, along with stories about strafing, crash landing, photo recon and life as a POW. My favorite part of the book is the great photo selection. If you're a fan of the B-17 and/or B-24, this book will make you smile. Lots of great bomber pictures, both in action, on the ground and in moments of agony. Definitely a fine photo collection. I was a bit disappointed with the text--fair amount of typos and I think the overall design of the narrative could have been better. Five stars for the photos, three stars for the text. Four overall. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Excellent title about the 15th which took on more of Axis Europe than any other Air Force--extraordinary text, images and format By Joseph May The U.S. Fifteenth Air Force was tasked to destroy or incapacitate the Axis forces in Central and Southern Europe from 1943 through 1945. It did not enjoy the glamour of bases in Great Britain but flew logistically tough missions such as the shuttle missions which landed in Russia, rearmed and sortied back to southern bases. The low level Ploesti raids also belonged to the Fifteenth so hardly more need be said for their combat challenges. Mahoney is more than familiar with the history of the Fifteenth and is accomplished as an author. Bombing Europe is no archetypal history book. Instead, it is a concise history laden with trials and tribulations of the aircrews and generously stocked with images. The text relates the thinking and the context of the events while the photos bring these events jumping off the book's pages. The

images are many, often dramatic and too often tragic. Death and injury in the cold skies are recounted in one event after another with no two being the same. The photographs are large—a welcome characteristic of Mahoney's fine book along with his engaging but never wasteful writing. Bombing Europe is a small size coffee table book well at home in a library or on a side table. It tells as well as shows the trajectory of the battle with chapters dedicated to all aspects of the struggle—from the flak to reconnaissance; from the Lone Wolf missions to rescues in Slovakia; and from combat with the Axis forces to War Crimes plus so much more. The photographs show so many happy and good looking combatants as well as fatally hit aircraft and everything in between. This book is gritty, accurate and complete—no Hollywood scripting or imagery here, but what happened and the way it happened. Bombing Europe is long overdue since the Fifteenth was responsible for more of Europe than other Allied forces but sees little of what it deserves. We have Kevin Mahoney to thank for his work and the Fifteenth Air Force for its more than significant contribution in winning World War II for the Allies. This book tells their story and what a story it is. Zenith Press provided a copy for an objective review. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. The Fifteenth Air Force in Action! By Mike O'Connor Although it flew its share of tough missions, the 15th AF never received the publicity accorded to the 8th AF in England. Kevin Mahoney's BOMBING EUROPE, THE ILLUSTRATED EXPLOITS OF THE FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE offers up a 240-page photo tribute to the 'Forgotten Fifteenth.' A 2015 Zenith Press release, Mahoney's book shines a light on the combat life and times of the exemplary unit. Visually, Mahoney's book is a treat with so many eye-catching shots of 15th AF warbirds in action. The book features over 190 high-quality, well-captioned photographs of the 15th in action. A fair number of the pix are full-page. There are many shots of stately B-24s and B-17s in formation but also shots of high drama with Flying Forts and Libs falling from the skies, trailing behind with combat damage, crash-landing at base, P-38 and P-51 escorts, etc. The pix are accompanied by text including excerpts from combat reports. The material is arranged in chapters on 'Dogfights,' 'Bombers Against the Luftwaffe,' 'Flak,' 'Safe at Base,' 'Reconnaissance Missions,' 'Operational Difficulties,' 'War Crimes Against Airmen,' etc. In short, BOMBING EUROPE is a first-rate photo guide and tribute to the men and machines of the 'Forgotten Fifteenth.' Recommended.

Get the complete story of one of the most ambitious aerial campaigns in history--the bombing of Europe under the Axis powers--illustrated with over 200 compelling photos. Created in November 1943, the Fifteenth Air Force was the direct descendant of the American Ninth and Twelfth Air Forces that had fought in the Mediterranean since the summer of 1942. Its force included 210 B-17 Flying Fortress and 90 B-24 Liberator bombers escorted by P-38 Lightning, P-47 Thunderbolt, and P-51 Mustang fighters. They took the air battle against the Axis to areas Allied bombers based in England could not reach: southern Germany, Austria, eastern Europe, and the Balkans. Their reach in the Balkans included the oil refineries at Ploesti, Romania, vital to Germany's war effort. Its crews fought the weather, as well as the enemy, by flying over the Alps to reach many of their targets and made a significant contribution to the victory over the Axis powers and Nazi Germany. Although enemy fighter planes were a major menace during the first nine months of the Fifteenth's air war, ubiquitous antiaircraft fire, called flak, also took a toll on American bombers throughout the campaign. This book tells the story of the brave airmen who bombed the majority of Europe in an effort to win the war.

"This is the book the Fighting Fifteenth has long deserved, bringing forward in stirring prose and vivid images the immense contribution it made to victory in Europe." - Donald L. Miller, Author of Masters of the Air: America's Bomber Boys Who Fought the Air War Against Nazi Germany