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Combat Chronicles of the P-61 Black Widow

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From Squadron/Signal : Combat Chronicles of the P-61 Black Widow before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Combat Chronicles of the P-61 Black Widow:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. I was a Crew Chief on a P-61 Black WidowBy George E HooverThe book Combat Chronicles of the P-61 Black Widow by Warren Thompson is well written. I know because I was a Crew Chief on a P-61 Black Widow in the 425th. Night Fighter Squadron. He gives a few credits to the 425th.The book is filled with photos of the P-61 in all of her various uses. Very few people are familiar with the P-61 because in WWII its use was kept very secret.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Exciting Account of P-61 Combats!By Mike O'ConnorWarren Thompson's COMBAT CHRONICLES OF THE BLACK WIDOW, published in 2011 by Squadron/Signal, is a companion piece to his EVOLUTION OF THE P-61 BLACK WIDOW volume released in 2009. That volume, also for S/S, was a developmental history of the Black Widow. Thompson's latest P-61 book gives us 'the rest of the story,' detailing the combat career of Northrop's massive but deadly night-fighter.After describing the development of P-61 training and tactics, Thompson surveys the P-61's combat exploits theater by theater, covering the PTO, ETO, CBI and, lastly, the MTO. A final, brief two-page summary provides details on each P-61 squadron that saw combat in World War II.Thompson's book benefits from the many first-person accounts by Black Widow aircrew and maintenance men. The book is bursting with tales of nocturnal combats with Ju 88s, He 111s, Bf 110s, Bettys, Oscars and various e/a not to mention ground-attack sorties. In all, Black Widow crews splashed 127 aircraft and nine buzz bombs.Likewise, the book has a wonderful collection of color and bw photographs showing aircraft, aircrew, close-ups of equipment and weapons, e/a, etc.Since Thompson already did a 'P-61 Units' book for Osprey back in 1998, some of the material and pix found in the 2011 S/S book will seem familiar. However,

COMBAT CHRONICLES OF THE BLACK WIDOW is a nicely-written, well-illustrated addition to the literature on the Northrop night-fighter. I had to give it 4 stars - actually 4 1/2 - because it lacked an index. Recommended.*****Note: The front- and back-cover artwork for this book was done by Dave Ails. If this means that Don Greer, Squadron/Signal's prolific and long-serving artist, is finally retiring, I'd like to thank him for the thousands of fine artworks he's created over the years for S/S publications, covers and side-profiles alike. He will be missed.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Great First Person Account of the Combat History of the Black Widow By Will Silk "Combat Chronicles of the Black Widow" is a book that recounts the history of Northrop's P-61 via the men that flew and maintained America's first dedicated night fighter aircraft. Broken into 5 chapters based on the theater being represented, all the squadrons that operated the Black Widow are featured and stories that are told from first hand accounts make the history of this amazing airplane become even more alive. There is a fair mix of color photos amongst the large collection of black and white pictures featured throughout this tome. The front and rear cover artwork is suitable for framing in my opinion, and the final pages are reserved for a small squadron appendix with basic info pertaining to their histories with the aircraft. A great book for the aviation enthusiast in general that lends a first hand perspective into just how amazing the men were that flew and supported the incredible P-61 Black Widow in combat. A highly recommended read.