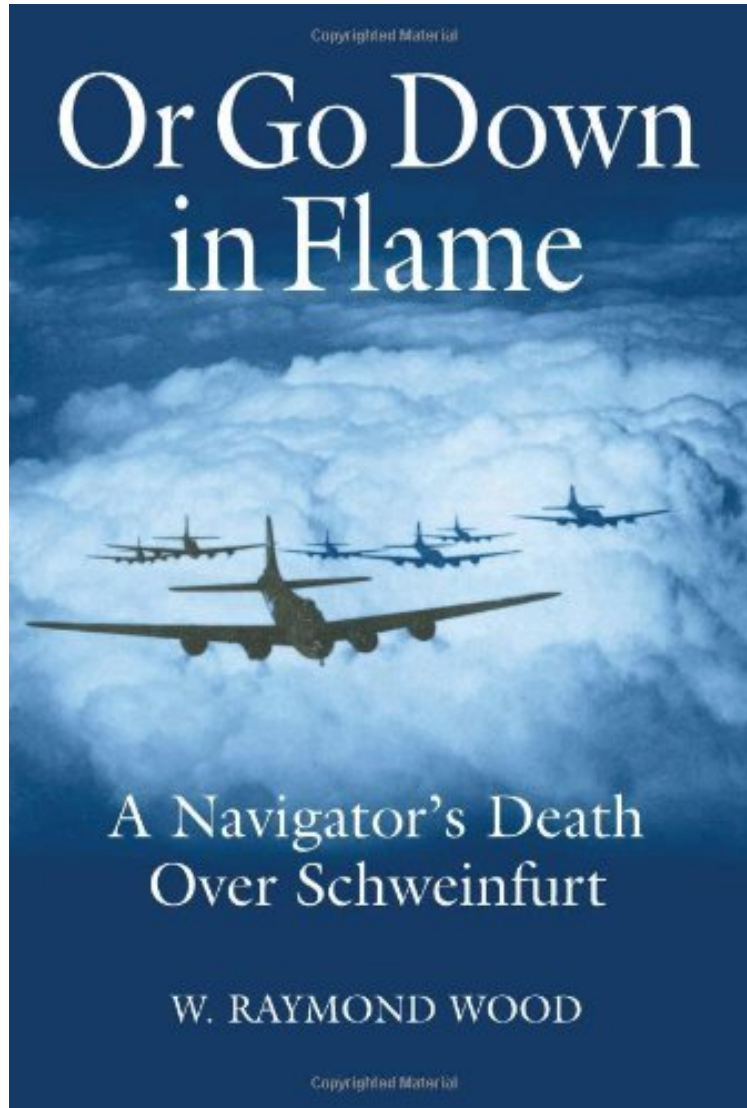


(Ebook pdf) Or Go Down in Flame: A Navigator's Death Over Schweinfurt

Or Go Down in Flame: A Navigator's Death Over Schweinfurt

W. Raymond Wood

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W. Raymond Wood : Or Go Down in Flame: A Navigator's Death Over Schweinfurt before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Or Go Down in Flame: A Navigator's Death Over Schweinfurt:

0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. It was o.k.By Joe BriscoeIt was o.k.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Excellent, with info to help you research lost servicemen.By A CustomerAn excellent story of the author's research into the facts concerning his brother's dimly-remembered death during World War II. The author chases down service records, mission histories, eyewitness accounts, and battle participants to reconstruct his

brother's story, using that as a window on the broader subject of the infamous "Second Schweinfurt" bomber raid. Especially valuable is the book's appendix, which lists addresses of U.S. Military and other government and private organizations which make available a surprising amount of detailed information about individuals' service careers and the events attending their deaths, recoveries, and post-war "repatriations". This book induced me, with my Father's help, to turn my Uncle's loss over Vienna from a mere War Department telegram into a rich and interesting story, much to the surprise and satisfaction of my family. (See also, 'Wings of Morning: the story of the last American bomber shot down over Germany in World War II' by Thomas Childers for similar content and treatment.) 7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Exemplary history. By A Customer (The numerical rating above is a default setting within 's format. This reviewer does not employ numerical ratings.) Author Wood, a Professor of Anthropology, brings his professional skills to bear on his brother's death at Second Schweinfurt (October 14 1943) and in the process has produced a remarkable example of military research. In addition to the expected material on context, units, and individuals, Professor Wood's investigations turned up the manufacturing history of the airplane (down to the exact cost), the position of the plane within the ill-fated flight, the probable Luftwaffe pilot who shot it down, eyewitnesses on the ground, and more. Of particular interest is the brief history of the Graves Registration Command and its commendable work in a very difficult but unsung assignment. Thoroughly researched, beautifully readable, Professor Wood's book is a fitting memorial to Lt. Elbert Wood, navigator of the "Wicked WAAC". With photos, maps, documents, diagrams, sources, bibliography, index. First rate work; highly recommended.

Though Anglo-American air power may be unrivaled in today's world, this was certainly not the case during Europe's last great war. Decades ago, when our airmen flew against Germany, horrific casualties resulted on both sides, and certain battles fought by the Allied powers can be termed nothing less than calamitous. "Black Thursday," the second Schweinfurt raid, was the most savagely fought air battle in U.S. history, and a milestone in the course of World War II. On October 14, 1943, the U.S. Eighth Air Force launched nearly 300 bombers deep into German territory to destroy the ball-bearing plants at Schweinfurt, hoping this would bring enemy industry to a halt. On that clear, sunlit day, hundreds of German fighters raced among the unescorted B-17s, guns blazing, knocking down plane after plane, each with ten men aboard. Other German aircraft flew just outside machine-gun range of the tightly packed formations, lobbing rockets that exploded into thousands of pieces of shrapnel. U.S. bombers that split off from a formation, either wounded or disoriented, became prey for the agile packs of German fighters who would set upon them like wolves thirsty for a kill. By the end of the day, the flight path of the Flying Fortresses was marked across the breadth of Germany by towering pillars of smoke from crashed machines, fiery tributes to 600 lost airmen. W. Raymond Wood was just a child when his brother was lost in the Schweinfurt raid, and the minute details of this book is the result of his multi-year effort to illuminate "Black Thursday" as no writer has before. He not only reveals the experience of the American flyers in this famous battle, but that of the civilians on the ground and the enemy fighters who flew against the bomber stream, including the Me-110 pilot who in all probability destroyed his brother's plane with a rocket. Illustrated with 48 pages of photos and original documents, this book examines the air war against the Third Reich, then brings the reader into the center of harrowing air combat, and finally chronicles the little-known operations after war's end to retrieve and identify our dead. The young navigator who sacrificed his life over Schweinfurt, after first being buried in the German village in which he fell, was at last recovered by RAF and American War Graves teams, who returned his corpse to Nebraska, where his family had anxiously awaited news of the discovery of his remains. In this book, Wood has provided not only an important work of historical research, but also the intimate account of a death in one of World War II's greatest battles.

From Publishers Weekly This is the engrossing story of an American professor's quest to learn how his older brother was killed in WW II and the process by which the body was transported to its final resting place, the family plot in Missouri. Lt. Elbert S. Wood, navigator on a B-17 bomber during a 1943 raid over Germany, was the sole member of the crew who did not parachute safely to ground after the plane was damaged. (Lt. Wood, wounded, was probably strangled by his own parachute lines.) The author interviewed surviving crewmen, visited the crash site and questioned German civilians who attended Lt. Wood's funeral in the small Bavarian town where his body was taken. He constructed an outline of his brother's military career and a moment-by-moment account of his last mission. In one of many poignant moments, Wood pays tribute to the town Burgermeister who went out of his way to give an American airman a dignified burial (German soldiers on leave served as guards of honor) "when this was not a popular or even safe course of action." The book may also be read as an exemplar of how to research the fate of an American combat casualty. Wood teaches anthropology at the University of Missouri. Photos. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. "...not only details the events surrounding the death of one aviator during the Allied strategic bombing campaign against Germany in 1943, but also could be described as an introductory work in how to do research with WWII records...extremely well researched account of the author's own private quest to find out the truth about his brother....Or Go Down in Flame would be useful to WWII historians interested in the bombing over Germany and to non professionals interested in researching relatives lost during the war... (Plains Anthropologist, Vol

41, No 158) This is the engrossing story of an American professor's quest to learn how his older brother was killed in WW II and the process by which the body was transported to its final resting place, the family plot in Missouri. Lt. Elbert S. Wood, navigator on a B-17 bomber during a 1943 raid over Germany, was the sole member of the crew who did not parachute safely to ground after the plane was damaged. (Lt. Wood, wounded, was probably strangled by his own parachute lines.) The author interviewed surviving crewmen, visited the crash site and questioned German civilians who attended Lt. Wood's funeral in the small Bavarian town where his body was taken. He constructed an outline of his brother's military career and a moment-by-moment account of his last mission. In one of many poignant moments, Wood pays tribute to the town Burgermeister who went out of his way to give an American airman a dignified burial (German soldiers on leave served as guards of honor) "when this was not a popular or even safe course of action." The book may also be read as an exemplar of how to research the fate of an American combat casualty. (Publisher's Weekly) About the Author W. Raymond Wood specializes in military history.