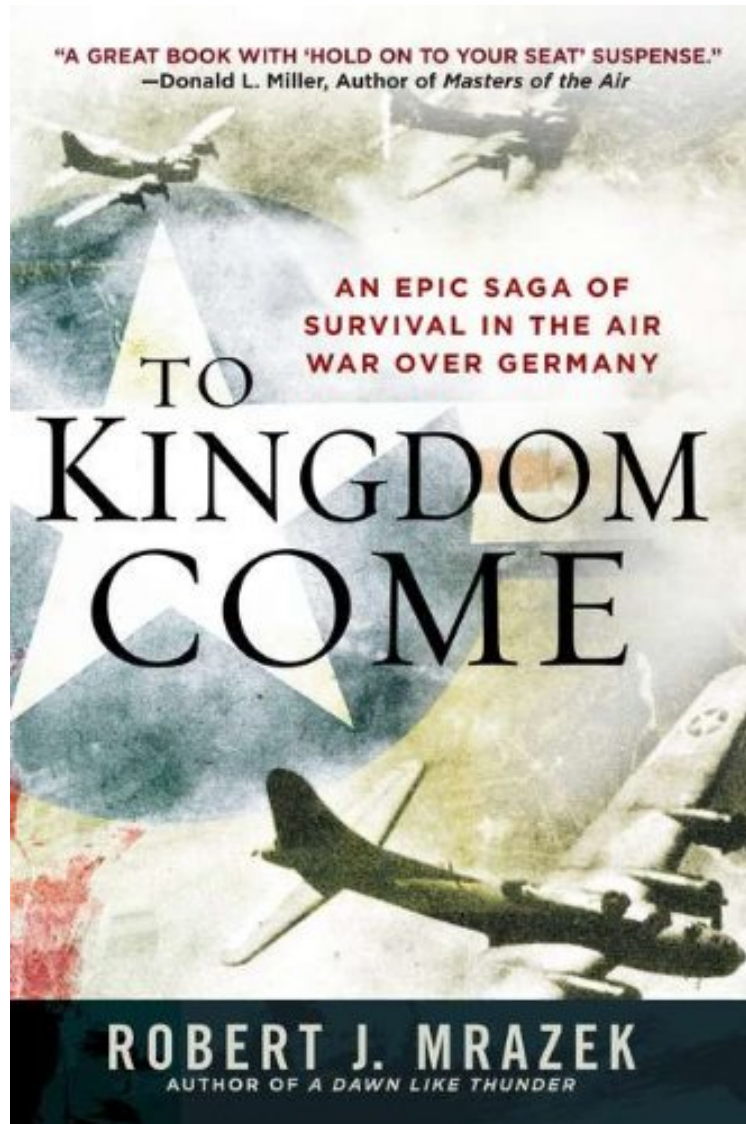


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To Kingdom Come: An Epic Saga of Survival in the Air War Over Germany

Robert J. Mrazek

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Robert J. Mrazek : To Kingdom Come: An Epic Saga of Survival in the Air War Over Germany before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised To Kingdom Come: An Epic Saga of Survival in the Air War Over Germany:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. The air war over Europe really came alive for me By PeterBI have read so many books about WW2, and particularly about the air war over Europe, that I wasn't sure another book could

educate and excite me in such an unexpected way. I read the author's prior book, *A Dawn Like Thunder*, and it turned out to be the best book I've ever read about the war in the Pacific. I have purchased over 20 copies as gifts and every recipient has told me how moved they were by that incredible story. He carries over the same narrative approach in this book by deeply researching the individual stories of average Americans called to serve. No matter how much you have read about individual courage in the face of overwhelming adversity, I guarantee that you will be humbled by many of the accounts in this book. Before I read this book, I could not fathom how these pilots and airmen were able to fly mission after mission with such a low chance of survival. I'm not sure I can fathom it now, but the author has brought the individuals to life in a way that will be indelible for me. My favorite part of the book are the stories of survival after being shot down behind enemy lines. Hollywood has never done justice to this level of courage. On the flip side, the accounts of leadership incompetence and failure that needlessly cost so many lives, left me incredibly frustrated. I guess I shouldn't be surprised, but the author's deep historical expertise definitely shed new light on these shocking events for me. In my view, this book should be required reading for every leader who has to make command decisions that put service people's lives at risk. I can recommend this book to you without reservation. You'll have trouble putting it down and will never forget some of the individuals who lived, and died, to help liberate Europe. This book honors them and their mission.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. "Twelve O'Clock High" with backup
By Professor BDJQ
The movie "Twelve O'Clock High" was great, but it was, after all, a piece of fiction. Robert Mrazek's book, *To Kingdom Come*, tells the real stories of the real men who fought the real war. It is gripping and well-researched, and beautifully, respectfully written. As the son of a WWII B-24 pilot, I never knew exactly what Dad went through, because he would not, probably could not, talk about it. Mr. Mrazek gave my father - and many, many other fliers from that era - a voice.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Account of an Amazing Story
By Bill Blett
This is my first book review, so I apologize up-front if it is not as polished as some of the others seen on . I have a built-in bias toward liking this book as my father was a B-17 Bombardier, flying out of England during WWII. (the "Epic Saga of Survival" directly accounts for me being here today!) That said, I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The organization and perspective help tell the story in a clear and vivid way. My father, and many who also served, was not one to get into the everyday and/or gory details of life in the 8th Air Force. This book does a great job of mixing those details within the context of the political and logistical factors contributing to the evolution of one of the greatest strategic fighting forces. The author does a nice job in weaving personal accounts, circumstances and personality traits of not only key historic figures but everyday men. I wholeheartedly recommend this book. BTW, I originally came across this title in an actual bookstore. It seemed rather pricey, plus I really enjoy my Kindle reading experience. So, I scanned the bar-code using my smart-phone, found it on and 1-click-downloaded it on to my cloud. I actually started reading the book, from the Kindle Reader App on my phone, while waiting for my wife and daughter to finish their shopping at the mall!

On September 6, 1943, three hundred and thirty-eight B-17 "Flying Fortresses" of the American Eighth Air Force took off from England, bound for Stuttgart, Germany, to bomb Nazi weapons factories. Dense clouds obscured the targets, and one commander's critical decision to circle three times through heavy fire would prove disastrous. Forty-five planes went down that day, and hundreds of men were lost or missing. Sharing the first-person accounts of six of the B-17 airmen, award-winning author Robert J. Mrazek vividly re-creates the fierce air battle-and reveals the astonishing valor of the airmen who survived being shot down, and the tragic fate of those who did not.

"With power and passion, Robert J. Mrazek tells the story of one of the most calamitous American bombing missions of World War II....Mrazek writes about the ill-fated Stuttgart Raid as though he had gone into the heart of the Reich with the audacious American bomber crews...a great book with 'hold on to your seat' suspense." -Donald L. Miller, author of *Masters of the Air: America's Bomber Boys Who Fought the Air War Against Nazi Germany* "Mrazek has uncovered the moment of profound exigency for the bomber crews, when the course and consequence of the air war converged and rendered it in vivid clarity." -Hugh Ambrose, New York Times bestselling author of *The Pacific* "[A] work of cinematic sweep and pace." -Richard Frank, author of *Downfall* and *Guadalcanal* "Through superb historical research and powerful narrative writing, the author brings back to life a pivotal, heartbreaking episode." -Tami Biddle, Professor, U.S. Army War College, and author of *Rhetoric and Reality in Air Warfare*

About the Author
Robert J. Mrazek is a navy veteran and former congressman from the North Shore of Long Island. While in Washington, he authored a number of pieces of landmark legislation. Since his retirement from Congress, Mrazek has served on the boards of several companies and charitable organizations, including ten years as chairman of the Washington-based Alaska Wilderness League.