



Beaufighters in the Night: 417 Night Fighter Squadron USAAF

Brick Eisel

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The 417th Night Fighter Squadron USAAF was only the fourth such unit to be formed. In the early days of WWII, the US sent observers to England to study how the latest form of air warfare would take shape and it very soon became apparent to them that a night fighting capability was of increasing importance. When they joined the battle against the Reich they found themselves without a suitable American aircraft and were forced to utilize RAF Beaufighters. Having ‘re-learned to fly’ this British design the 417th were sent to North Africa. Most of the ex-RAF aircraft they had inherited were battle weary and no supplies of spares were available through the US supply chain. The squadron found an elderly B-25 bomber, nicknamed the “Strawberry Roan,” and they ranged throughout the Mediterranean in search of Beaufighter parts. 417 soon built a healthy score of downed German and Italian aircraft and as the war progressed they were moved to Corsica to support the Italian invasion, After D-Day they were moved to Le Vallon from where they attacked the night-time movements of the German Army. Perhaps their most famous operation was to attack the low flying German Condor that ran the route from the Reich to Spain carrying Nazi gold and treasures.

REVIEWS

“...well written, entertaining and highly informative tribute that serves to finally bring this unique and little known chapter of USAAF history to light.”

Aviation History Magazine 01/2008

“...The author conducted numerous interviews with veterans and their families, uncovering a bounty of likely never before published photographs in addition to preserving their stories for future generations... Eisel succeeds in painting a compelling picture of airmen at war, beating the odds in a forgotten fighter in an often overlooked theater.”

Air Power History 2/2008

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From reader reviews:

Velma Stuart:

As people who live in the particular modest era should be upgrade about what going on or facts even knowledge to make them keep up with the era and that is always change and progress. Some of you maybe may update themselves by looking at books. It is a good choice to suit your needs but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know which you should start with. This Beaufighters in the Night: 417 Night Fighter Squadron USAAF is our recommendation to help you keep up with the world. Why, as this book serves what you want and wish in this era.

Charles Valentine:

A lot of people always spent their particular free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them family members or their friend. Are you aware? Many a lot of people spent many people free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. In order to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun for you. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent 24 hours a day to reading a reserve. The book Beaufighters in the Night: 417 Night Fighter Squadron USAAF it is rather good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. These folks were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore very easily to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book features high quality.

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