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# Flying Through Midnight A Pilot Apos S Dramatic Story Of His Secret Missions Over Laos During Th

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Answering the Call

Sierra Hotel : flying Air Force fighters in the decade after Vietnam

Midnight Flight to Nuremberg

The Last Bush Pilots

The Flying Tigers

Flying Magazine

Angels in the Sky: How a Band of Volunteer Airmen Saved the New State of Israel

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A Nightmare's Prayer

Da Nang Diary

Special Duties Pilot

An Ace of the Eighth

Prairie Sky

Flying Through Midnight

Flying the Line

Take Over at Midnight

Under Fire with ARVN Infantry

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Of His Secret  
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edited by*

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## **KENZIE KENT**

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Air Force Magazine Air  
World

The thrilling story behind the American pilots who were secretly recruited to defend the nation's desperate Chinese allies before Pearl Harbor and ended up on the front lines of the war against the Japanese in the Pacific. Sam Kleiner's The

Flying Tigers uncovers the hidden story of the group of young American men and women who crossed the Pacific before Pearl Harbor to risk their lives defending China. Led by legendary army pilot Claire Chennault, these men left behind an America still at peace in the summer of 1941 using false identities to travel across the Pacific to a run-down airbase in the jungles of Burma. In the wake of the disaster at Pearl Harbor this motley crew was the first group of Americans to take on

the Japanese in combat, shooting down hundreds of Japanese aircraft in the skies over Burma, Thailand, and China. At a time when the Allies were being defeated across the globe, the Flying Tigers' exploits gave hope to Americans and Chinese alike. Kleiner takes readers into the cockpits of their iconic shark-nosed P-40 planes—one of the most familiar images of the war—as the Tigers perform nail-biting missions against the Japanese. He profiles the outsize personalities

involved in the operation, including Chennault, whose aggressive tactics went against the prevailing wisdom of military strategy; Greg “Pappy” Boyington, the man who would become the nation’s most beloved pilot until he was shot down and became a POW; Emma Foster, one of the nurses in the unit who had a passionate romance with a pilot named John Petach; and Madame Chiang Kai-shek herself, who first brought Chennault to China and who would come to visit

these young Americans. A dramatic story of a covert operation whose very existence would have scandalized an isolationist United States, *The Flying Tigers* is the unforgettable account of a group of Americans whose heroism changed the world, and who cemented an alliance between the United States and China as both nations fought against seemingly insurmountable odds.

[A Rose At Midnight \(Mills & Boon Intrigue\) \(Eclipse, Book 6\)](#) McFarland  
Military Writers Society of

America Gold Medal BEST MEMOIR OF 2014. Originally published in 1990, this classic work has now been revised and updated with 50,000 words of additional narrative and previously unpublished photos. It is the story of how, in Vietnam, an elite group of Air Force pilots fought a secret air war in Cessna 0-2 and OV-10 Bronco prop planes--flying as low as they could get. The eyes and ears of the fast-moving jets who rained death and destruction down on enemy positions,

the Forward Air Controller made an art form out of an air strike--knowing the targets, knowing where friendly troops were, and reacting with split-second, life and death decisions as a battle unfolded. The expertise of the low, slow FACs, as well as the hazard attendant to their role, made for a unique birds-eye perspective on how the entire war in Vietnam unfolded. For Tom Yarborough, who logged 1,500 hours of combat flying time, the risk was constant, intense and electrifying. A

member of the super-secret "Prairie Fire" unit, Yarborough became one of the most frequently shot-up pilots flying out of Da Nang--engaging in a series of dangerous secret missions in Laos. In this work, the reader flies in the cockpit alongside Yarborough in his adrenaline-pumping chronicle of heroism, danger and wartime brotherhood. From the rescuing of downed pilots to taking out enemy positions, to the most harrowing extended missions directly

overhead of the NVA, here is the dedication, courage and skill of the fliers who took the war into the enemy's backyard. Colonel Tom Yarborough, USAF (ret.) served in the Air Force for thirty years in a variety of flying and staff assignments. A command pilot, during his two Vietnam tours as a forward air controller, he earned thirty combat decorations, including the Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Purple Heart, Air Medal, and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. He currently

lives in Springfield, Virginia, where he maintains ties to the academic community as an adjunct history professor at Northern Virginia Community College.

*A Wasp Among Eagles*  
Open Road Media

It was 1968 and Robert Hartley was on his first combat mission in Vietnam as copilot of a helicopter gunship. As he and his platoon leader flew over the A Shau Valley, a Chinook helicopter engulfed in flames suddenly came

into view. Hartley noticed tiny black smoking objects exiting the tail ramp of the aircraft. Seconds later, he realized those objects were men escaping the flames and plunging to their deaths. It was in that moment that he silently wondered, "How the hell did I get here?" Mr. Hartley was still wet behind the ears when he was tossed into the cauldron of America's most unpopular war as an attack helicopter gunship pilot. As he shares a gripping, birds-eye view of battles that took him from

the Demilitarized Zone in the north to the Mekong Delta in the south, Mr. Hartley compellingly details how he learned to rely on his superior training and equipment to follow through with his mission to kill the enemy and save the lives of his fellow soldiers below. Gunship Pilot provides an unforgettable glimpse into two combat tours of duty in Vietnam as a helicopter pilot soaring high above rice paddies and jungles attempts to fulfill his duty of protecting America's warriors on the ground.

## **MATTHEW AND THE MIDNIGHT PILOT**

Dorrance Publishing

If there was ever a man who was born to fly, it is John M. Billings. He took his first plane ride in 1926, began taking piloting lessons in 1938, and joined the US Army Air Force in July 1942. After training he was assigned to fly Consolidated B-24 Liberator long-range bombers. He joined the 825th Bombardment Squadron of the 484th Bombardment Group.

After flying fifteen daylight strategic bombing missions, Billings was selected for assignment to the 885th Bombardment Squadron (Heavy) (Special). As its designation suggests, the 885th was no regular bombing unit. The 885th specialized in flying top secret, low-altitude missions at night in support of the clandestine operations of the OSS and the Special Operations Executive. The unit's covert missions included parachuting OSS and SOE agents and supplies deep

inside German territory. The most eventful and dangerous of Billings' thirty-nine secret missions with the 885th was his assignment in February 1945 to clandestinely insert a three-man OSS team, code-named Greenup, into Austria. The drop zone selected for the Greenup insertion was located on a glacier in a valley surrounded by mountains in the middle of the snow-covered Alps. Billings and his crew finally found the weather in the Alps clear enough to spot the drop zone, slip



their unwieldy B-24 between the mountain peaks and descend to an altitude just a few hundred feet above the moonlit snow. On Billings' signal, the OSS agents parachuted right on target. The insertion of this OSS team was the inspiration for the feature film Inglorious Bastards. However, Brad Pitt's vengeful character was far removed from the leader of the Greenup team, Fred Mayer, who achieved success by infiltrating enemy ranks to gain vital intelligence.

After the war, John Billings flew with Trans World Airlines and Eastern Airlines. He also flew more than 300 'Angel Flight' airlift missions which involve the specialized aerial transportation of critically ill medical patients. This is one man's story of a remarkable lifetime of flying, both in peace and in war.

## **FLIGHT**

Boolarong Biographies Before World War II most Americans did not believe that the average woman

could fly professionally, but during the war more than a thousand women pilots proved them wrong. These were the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPs), who served as military flyers on the home front. In March 1944 one of them, Ann Baumgartner, was assigned to the Fighter Flight Test Branch at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. There she would make history as the only woman to test-fly experimental planes during the war and the first woman to fly a jet. A

WASP among Eagles is the first-person story of how Baumgartner learned to fly, trained as a WASP, and became one of the earliest jet-age pioneers. Flying such planes as the Curtiss A-25 Helldiver, the Lockheed P-38, and the B-29 Superfortress, she was the first woman to participate in a host of experiments, including in-air refueling and flying the first fighter equipped with a pressurized cockpit. But in evaluating the long-awaited turbojet-powered Bell YP-59A, she set a “first” record that would

remain unchallenged for ten years.

*Da Nang Diary* Casemate “[An] intimate account of a Forward Air Controller working with the Special Forces on their secret operations in South Vietnam and Laos . . . Don’t miss it!” (John Prados, author of *Storm Over Leyte*). Originally published in 1991, this classic work has now been revised and updated with additional photos. It is the story of how, in Vietnam, an elite group of Air Force pilots fought a secret air war in Cessna 0-2 and

OV-10 Bronco prop planes—flying as low as they could get. The eyes and ears of the fast-moving jets who rained death and destruction down on enemy positions, the forward air controller made an art form out of an air strike—knowing the targets, knowing where friendly troops were, and reacting with split-second, life-and-death decisions as a battle unfolded. The expertise of the low, slow FACs, as well as the hazard attendant to their role, made for a unique bird’s-eye perspective on

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danger, and wartime brotherhood. From the rescuing of downed pilots to taking out enemy positions, to the most harrowing extended missions directly overhead of the NVA, here is the dedication, courage and skill of the fliers who took the war into the enemy's backyard. *Viper Pilot* Random House In 1966, Bob Grandin was a Royal Australian Airforce helicopter pilot stationed in Vietnam. This book is written from the logbook he kept while working in Nui Dat and is a

fascinating look at life during war.

### **Answering the Call**

HarperCollins UK

Amelia Earhart is a legend in the field of aviation, and no accomplishment of hers is more acclaimed than her unparalleled 1932 solo flight across the Atlantic. As only the second person—and the first woman—to achieve such a feat, Amelia Earhart earned a place in the history books, and award-winning author Robert Burleigh has captured every nuance of her remarkable journey in

this detailed picture book that is full of action and edge. Readers will be thrilled with the adventure and drama in this nonfiction account—and Wendell Minor’s vivid paintings will make them feel as if they’re along for the ride.

**Sierra Hotel : flying Air Force fighters in the decade after Vietnam**  
 Oxford University Press  
 Winner of the Author's Club Best First Novel Award  
 A Finalist for the East Anglian Book Award for Fiction  
 “The Last Pilot made me cry and brought

back all my old Right Stuff feels. A brilliant debut. I loved it.”—Helen Macdonald, author of *H* is for Hawk  
 Jim Harrison is a test pilot in the United States Air Force, one of the exalted few. He spends his days cheating death in the skies above the Mojave Desert and his nights at his friend Pancho’s bar, often with his wife, Grace. She and Harrison are secretly desperate for a child, and when, unexpectedly, Grace learns that she is pregnant, the two are overjoyed. America

becomes swept up in the fervor of the Space Race, while Harrison turns his attention home to welcome his daughter, Florence, into the world. But as he and Grace confront thrills and challenges of parenthood, they are met with sudden tragedy. The aftermath will haunt the Harrisons and strain their marriage, as Jim struggles to make life-and-death decisions under circumstances that are altogether new. Set against the backdrop of one of the most emotionally charged

periods in American history, *The Last Pilot* by Benjamin Johncock is the mesmerizing story of a couple's crisis of faith—in themselves, and in each another—and the limits they test to rediscover it. Midnight Flight to Nuremberg Nicholson A chief test pilot recounts his hair-raising experiences with the RAF in this detailed and often-witty memoir. Includes photos. The Falkland Islands had been invaded and a Task Force was already steaming south at full speed. On board the

carriers were the Harriers that would provide essential aerial cover for the British troops and ships sent to recapture the islands. They would be entering particularly hostile territory, and the type's capabilities urgently needed to be expanded and proved. This was a job that Ron Burrows and the test pilots of his elite Fighter Test Squadron at Boscombe Down were ready to take on. From the 1960s to the 1990s, Ron test-flew all the RAF's fast-jets—in the process

of which he survived two crash landings and two emergency ejections, as well as numerous other close shaves. A master of his craft, he rose to become the Aeroplane and Armament Experimental Establishment's chief test pilot, and this is his remarkable story. With four test-flying tours under his belt and close-air-support missions flying Hunters in the Aden Emergency, Ron's experiences extended throughout the critical final decades of the Cold

War. A graduate of the US Navy's test pilot school, he has flown an unusually broad range of US and UK aircraft from fast-jets to heavy multi-engine aircraft. With his unrivaled knowledge and expertise, he is able to explain the methods, techniques, and demands of his profession, with many examples of what can and often does go wrong in aircraft development and testing. His descriptions of his near misses and catastrophic accidents are written with color and candor. But he also tries

to inform the reader about the skills required to fly and test fast-jets and about the development of cockpit displays and design, highlighting some of the issues and problems encountered in development and in operation. "If it can go wrong, it will go wrong" could be the subtitle of this frank and witty account which flies along with the speed of one of those fast-jets.

### **The Last Bush Pilots**

Simon and Schuster  
This is the story of an American C-47 'Dakota'

pilot who earned three Air Medals, seven Battle Stars and flew twenty-seven combat missions during the Second World War. As a young U.S. pilot, Harry Watson, arrived in Britain as the Battle of Normandy was reaching its crescendo. Thrown immediately into the fray, Harry, along with more than 200 aircraft, set off to carry supplies to the troops fighting in France. But with visibility reduced to zero, the aircraft were ordered to turn back - all did except Harry, who successfully delivered his

life-saving cargo of blood and US Army nurses. Harry continued to take risks, which resulted in many hair-raising episodes. This included almost being caught on the ground, while on an urgent fuel resupply mission for a platoon of General Patton's tanks, by a German Mk.IV panzer and a battalion of supporting infantry. He flew throughout Operation Market Garden, losing a close friend to German anti-aircraft fire while taking some hits to his own plane. Thereafter he

led a flight of five transports on a desperate mission to evacuate a mobile field hospital that was about to be over-run by the SS. Only four of the planes made it back as they came under direct fire just before they could take-off with scores of casualties and medical personnel crammed aboard each Dakota. Around midnight, in early April 1945, he was sent on a secret mission to fly to a point near Nuremberg, which was behind enemy lines at the time. It was necessary for him to

locate an empty meadow in the dark, land, load a party of US soldiers and their captives, and then take-off again. He pulled it off. Among those prisoners was Franz von Pappen, the man who had persuaded President Hindenburg to make Hitler Chancellor of Germany in 1933. Von Papen had been seized at his own home by First Lieutenant Thomas McKinley and his men from the US 194th Glider Infantry Regiment. Based on his own recollections, as told to the author Marcus Nanni,

this is Harry Watson's exciting account of the air war told, unusually, through the words of a transport pilot.

## THE FLYING TIGERS

Penguin

From 1945 to 1973, more than 100,000 members of the U.S. military were advisors in Vietnam. Of these, 66,399 were combat advisors. Eleven were awarded the Medal of Honor, 378 were killed and 1393 were wounded. Combat advisors lived and fought with South Vietnamese combat units,

advising on tactics and weapons and liaising with local U.S. military support. Bob Worthington's first tour (1966-1967) began with training at the Army Special Warfare School in unconventional warfare, Vietnamese culture and customs, advisor responsibilities and Vietnamese language. Once in-country, he acted as senior advisor to infantry defense forces and then an infantry mobile rapid reaction force. Worthington worked alongside ARVN forces, staging operations

against Vietcong and North Vietnamese Army units, and coordinated actions with the U.S. Marines. He describes a night helicopter assault by a 320-man ARVN battalion against a 1,200-man NVA regiment. On another night, the Vietcong ceased fire while Worthington arranged a Marine helicopter to medevac a wounded baby.

[Flying Magazine](#)

University of North Texas Press

Top Gun was only part of the story. Fly Navy delves



beyond the Hollywood image to reveal the true mettle and genuine story of the elite men and women of naval aviation. For one hundred years, the U.S. Navy's aviators and crews have made the difference on military and peacetime missions around the world. Their unparalleled skill, preparation, and everyday dedication have paid off when it matters most: when lives are on the line. Together, these men and women—officers and enlisted personnel, past and present—have

protected freedom, served their country, and forged a legacy of valor like no other. In this landmark book, Alvin Townley takes readers on an adventure around the world and across generations as he goes behind the scenes of naval aviation. From the skies over the Arabian Sea to the jungles of Southeast Asia to carriers patrolling the vast Pacific, he uncovers incredible stories of service members who survived weeks adrift at sea, made midnight rescues in

deadly storms, crash-landed behind enemy lines, and found themselves in situations where their exceptional training and focus were the only things standing between life and death. Filled with inspiring personal accounts of courage, camaraderie, and sheer perseverance, Fly Navy pays tribute to the extraordinary individuals who have built naval aviation into the revered force it is today—and will remain tomorrow. Angels in the Sky: How a

Band of Volunteer Airmen  
Saved the New State of  
Israel Ariele Sieling

The subtropical lifestyle of this vibrant river city, with the rush and tear left behind when two young hopefuls headed north in an old blue panel van, was now ours. Our children could grow in our adopted city and state — beautiful one day, perfect the next. We popped the cork of our sparkling white wine. The clock ticked towards midnight. With one little Croweater and two little Sandgropers snug in their Sunshine

State beds, we clinked our glasses. Our future looked bright — the year, 1989.

**Skyfaring** Sourcebooks, Inc.

Flying Through  
MidnightMacmillan

**A NIGHTMARE'S  
PRAYER**

Buchman Bookworks, Inc. 'Flight, like any great love, is both a liberation and a return': an airline pilot captures the wonder of flight for the modern traveller. \*\*Sunday Times Bestseller\*\* \*\*Book of the Week on Radio 4\*\* Think back to when you first

flew. When you first left the Earth, and travelled high and fast above its turning arc. When you looked down on a new world, captured simply and perfectly through a window fringed with ice. When you descended towards a city, and arrived from the sky as effortlessly as daybreak. In Skyfaring, airline pilot and flight romantic Mark Vanhoenacker shares his irrepressible love of flying, on a journey from day to night, from new ways of mapmaking and the poetry of physics to the

names of winds and the nature of clouds. Here, anew, is the simple wonder that remains at the heart of an experience which modern travellers, armchair and otherwise, all too easily take for granted: the transcendent joy of motion, and the remarkable new perspectives that height and distance bestow on everything we love.

Da Nang Diary Harper Collins

Death in the Midnight Sky  
By: Joe Berardino I closed my eyes, raised my chin to heaven, and felt the

words surround me. They filled my heart with love, encouragement and boundless hope. I dreamt of marching over Russian tanks, freeing the Jews in Europe, opening schools in Africa. My chest filled with pride. I knew I could do anything; I could live the dream of my young President...My fate was sealed. I knew I had to become part of the greatest challenge of my generation, the new generation. Patriotism served as the inspiration for Joe Berardino's tour in Vietnam, flying the

mighty gunship. Like countless other American servicemen, hard work, perseverance, and tenacity became ingrained in Joe's character, allowing him to accomplish his life's goals, including earning a scholarship to attend Michigan State University. Death in the Midnight Sky is about the bravery and honor of the U.S. serviceman; about their honor and integrity; and about their inherent truth and honesty.  
*Special Duties Pilot* Flying Through Midnight

Fly Until You Die: An Oral History of Hmong Pilots in the Vietnam War recounts the experiences of ethnic minority men from northern Laos who participated in a covert pilot training program led by the US Air Force.

An Ace of the Eighth

DIANE Publishing

A New York Times

bestseller For millions of people, travel by air is a confounding, uncomfortable, and even fearful experience. Patrick Smith, airline pilot and author of the popular website

www.askthepilot.com, separates fact from fallacy and tells you everything you need to know: • How planes fly, and a revealing look at the men and women who fly them • Straight talk on turbulence, pilot training, and safety. • The real story on delays, congestion, and the dysfunction of the modern airport • The myths and misconceptions of cabin air and cockpit automation • Terrorism in perspective, and a provocative look at security • Airfares,

seating woes, and the pitfalls of airline customer service • The colors and cultures of the airlines we love to hate COCKPIT CONFIDENTIAL covers not only the nuts and bolts of flying, but the grand theater of air travel, from airport architecture to inflight service to the excitement of travel abroad. It's a thoughtful, funny, at times deeply personal look into the strange and misunderstood world of commercial flying. "Patrick Smith is extraordinarily

knowledgeable about modern aviation...the ideal seatmate, a companion, writer and explorer." —Boston Globe "Anyone remotely afraid of flying should read this book, as should anyone who appreciates good writing and great information." —The New York Times, on ASK THE PILOT.

### **PRAIRIE SKY**

LifeRich Publishing  
The autobiography of C-47 pilot and instructor, First Lieutenant Harry E. Watson, Jr, USAAF. 2022

IAN Book of the Year Awards, Third Place: Non-Fiction 2022 PenCraft Book Awards, Nonfiction - Biography 1st Place Winner 2021-2022 Overall Grand Prize Winner, Nonfiction, Readers Views Silver Medalist, 2022 IPPY Book Awards Finalist, 2022 Eric Hoffer Book Awards Finalist, American BookFest Awards This is the story of an American C-47 'Dakota' pilot who earned three Air Medals, seven Battle Stars and flew twenty-seven combat missions during the Second World War. As a

young U.S. pilot, Harry Watson, arrived in Britain as the Battle of Normandy was reaching its crescendo. Thrown immediately into the fray, Harry, along with more than 200 aircraft, set off to carry supplies to the troops fighting in France. But with visibility reduced to zero, the aircraft were ordered to turn back – all did except Harry, who successfully delivered his life-saving cargo of blood and US Army nurses. Harry continued to take risks, which resulted in many hair-raising

episodes. This included almost being caught on the ground, while on an urgent fuel resupply mission for a platoon of General Patton's tanks, by a German Mk.IV panzer and a battalion of supporting infantry. He flew throughout Operation Market Garden, losing a close friend to German anti-aircraft fire while taking some hits to his own plane. Thereafter he led a flight of five transports on a desperate mission to evacuate a mobile field hospital that was about to be over-run

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