

# Sky Giants Over Japan

**A Diary of a B-29 Combat  
Crew In WW II**



By  
**Chester Marshall**

# Sky Giants Over Japan A Diary Of A B29 Combat Crew In Ww11

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## **Sky Giants Over Japan A Diary Of A B29 Conbat Crew In Ww11:**

**Flying against Fate** S. P. MacKenzie, 2017-08-04 During World War II Allied casualty rates in the air were high Of the roughly 125 000 who served as aircrew with Bomber Command 59 423 were killed or missing and presumed killed a fatality rate of 45 5% With odds like that it would be no surprise if there were as few atheists in cockpits as there were in foxholes and indeed many airmen faced their dangerous missions with beliefs and rituals ranging from the traditional to the outlandish Military historian S P MacKenzie considers this phenomenon in *Flying against Fate* a pioneering study of the important role that superstition played in combat flier morale among the Allies in World War II Mining a wealth of documents as well as a trove of published and unpublished memoirs and diaries MacKenzie examines the myriad forms combat fliers superstitions assumed from jinxes to premonitions Most commonly airmen carried amulets or talismans lucky boots or a stuffed toy a coin whose year numbers added up to thirteen counterintuitively a boomerang Some performed rituals or avoided other acts e g having a photo taken before a flight Whatever seemed to work was worth sticking with and a heightened risk often meant an upsurge in superstitious thought and behavior MacKenzie delves into behavior analysis studies to help explain the psychology behind much of the behavior he documents not slighting the large cohort of crew members and commanders who demurred He also looks into the ways in which superstitious behavior was tolerated or even encouraged by those in command who saw it as a means of buttressing morale The first in depth exploration of just how varied and deeply felt superstitious beliefs were to tens of thousands of combat fliers *Flying against Fate* expands our understanding of a major aspect of the psychology of war in the air and of World War II **Air Pictorial** ,1985 *Sky Giants Over Japan* Chester Marshall, 1984 *Fire from the Sky* Ron Greer, 2013-08-27 This is the story of the last few months of WWII in the Pacific seen through the eyes of one man a radio operator aboard a B29 Superfortress who kept a diary of 28 missions over Japan The diary tells of the horrors of war It was written in darkness and often fear with a pen light during lonely hours confined for up to 18 hours at a time Herb Greer our main author 23 years old frightened and sitting on up to 20 000 pounds of jellied gasoline napalm while blindly flying through constant flak bursts and fighter opposition The plane is blacked out save the dull red glow of the instrument panels as they pass through the target area Suddenly the most intense bright light floods the aircraft blinding us the tension in the aircraft shot up hearts started beating a whole lot faster as we instantly realized that we were being singled out of the sky by a searchlight and were now firmly in the sights of air and ground fire we were the main act and center stage From that moment everything went into slow motion as we pass through the target seconds felt like minutes and minutes hours BOOM an explosion the plane rocks bucks flak is searing its way through the fragile fabric of the fuselage loose items are flying around Im scared they say you can taste fear well theyre absolutely right This personal view gives us two perspectives the first is the story of Herb Greer speaking to us aboard a B29 through the written entries of his diary and then the second recounted from his armchair 60 years later Written with an

immediacy that can only be shared by those who were there while capturing for posterity their bravery and dignity of sacrifice Praise for *Fire from the Sky* This is a book you will not be able to put down It is a well told memoir of the men whose missions will live forever in history It was my honor to have read the book it felt almost sacred to be allowed to look inside a crew members personal diary truly a treasured artifact of historic and sentimental value This is a book worth reading several times Great black and white photos as well I fully recommend this wonderful book about aviation and the men who crewed B 29s Bill McDonald president of the Military Writers Society of America As an avid reader of military history I found *Fire from the Sky* A Diary over Japan to be both a treasure trove of information and a stirring and often startling look at the air war over Japan in World War II What comes across in this book is not only the dedication and heroism of a B 29 bomber crew but also the harrowing circumstances of life and death in the air Truly a remarkable book told by a remarkable man who found himself with a job to do that now in the light of the passage of time seems like an incredible and mind boggling achievement This book richly deserves its Silver Medal Award Robert McCammon New York Times bestselling author

**Sky Giants Over Japan** Chester Marshall, 1994-01-01 *B-29 Photo Combat Diary* Chester W. Marshall, Warren Thompson, 1996 The photos in this edition are black and white In addition to being the plane which dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima the B 29 Superfortress was the only American heavy bombing aircraft that participated in both World War II and the Korean War These photos depict the Superfortress in combat in the 1940s against a failing Japanese air force and in the 1950s against ultra fast and dangerous Russian built MiG 15 jets Includes hundreds of air to air shots battle damage paint schemes and markings famous planes and air crews Air Force bases and more

**Giants Over Korea** Lou Fulgaro, 2003 Air Group 83 boarded the Aircraft Carrier The Essex on March 11 1945 They stayed till the war ended Lt jg Edward Pappert writes about life aboard the carrier He takes you with him on strikes against the Japanese homeland He tells about his wingman Lt jg Vern Coumbe s being shot down spending the night on Japanese soil and his subsequent rescue Other true tales include a division of Marine Pilots that can t find their way back to the carrier the sinking of the Japanese battle ship The Yamato the invasion of Okinawa and others

*B-29s Over Japan, 1944-1945* Samuel Russ Harris, Jr., 2014-01-10 This diary focuses intensely on Col Samuel Russ Harris life within his own 499th Bomb Group and his relationship with the 73rd Bomb Wing s operations The first section of the book is an intimate portrait of war To provide a context of the B 29 war against Japan the second half of the text details how the 73rd Bomb Wing was engaged in the war against Japan Together the two parts provide a well rounded portrait of America and one American at war

**Thirty-Five Missions Over Japan** 1st Lt. Philip D. Webster, Charlotte B. Webster, 2017-02-09 These are the original never before published notes penned in 1944 and 1945 by B 29 pilot 1st Lt Philip D Webster concerning the 35 missions he flew from Saipan to Tokyo during WWII Two time recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross every mission is described in detail the fighters they had to contend with the hits they took and how many the planes they shot down the flak that was encountered and the damage it caused Lt Webster wrote about

weather conditions and anything he thought the intelligence people would want to know about in a debriefing meeting upon landing These notes were stored undisturbed in Phil s original Army issue briefcase for over 61 years from the time they were written until August 2005 when the briefcase was finally opened All major incidents are true and can be backed up by documentation      *Final Assault on the Rising Sun* Chester Marshall, Warren E. Thompson, 1995

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