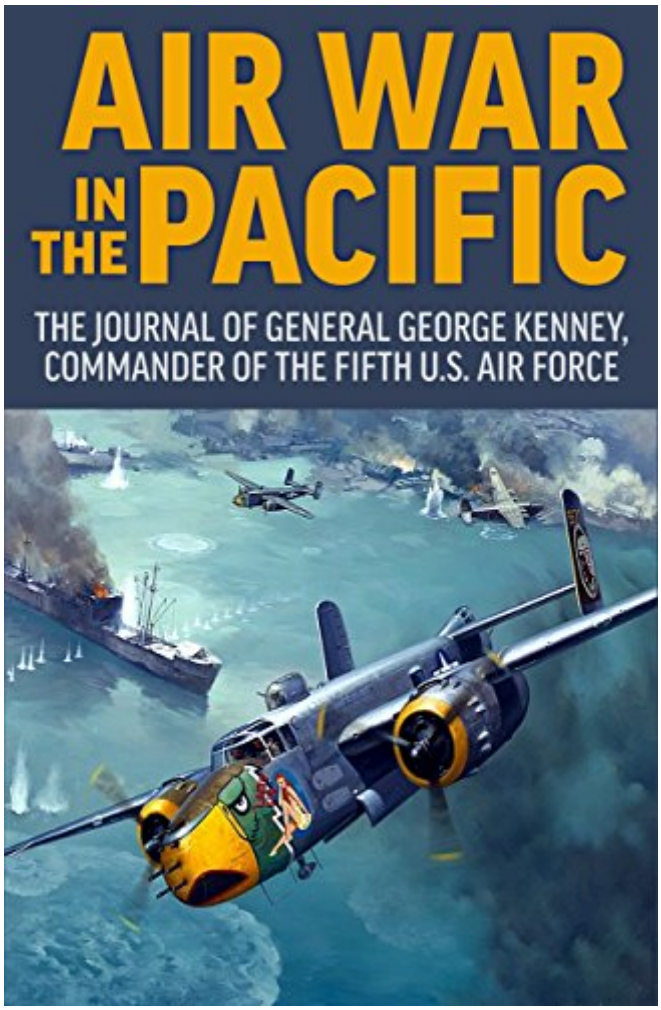
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Air War In The Pacific: The Journal Of General George Kenney, Commander Of The Fifth U.S. Air Force



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Synopsis

Air War in the Pacific, first published in 1949 as General Kenney Reports: A Personal History of the Pacific War, is a classic account of a combat commander in action. General George Churchill Kenney arrived in the Southwest Pacific theater in August 1942 to find that his command, if not in a shambles, was in dire straits. The theater commander, General Douglas MacArthur, had no confidence in his air element. Kenney quickly changed this situation. He organized and energized the Fifth Air Force, bringing in operational commanders like Whitehead and Wurtsmith who knew how to run combat air forces. He fixed the logistical swamp, making supply and maintenance supportive of air operations, and encouraging mavericks such as Pappy Gunn to make new and innovative weapons and to explore new tactics in airpower application. The result was a disaster for the Japanese. KenneyÃ¢â ¬â„¢s airmen used air powerÃ¢â ¬â • particularly heavily armed B-25 Mitchell bombersÃ¢â ¬â •to savage Japanese supply lines, destroying numerous ships and effectively isolating Japanese garrisons. The classic example of Kenney in action was the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, which marked the attainment of complete Allied air dominance and supremacy over Japanese naval forces operating around New Guinea. In short, Kenney was a brilliant, innovative airman, who drew on his own extensive flying experiences to inform his decision-making. Air War in the Pacific is a book that has withstood the test of time, and which remains as the definitive work on the Pacific air campaign in World War II. Included are 13 pages of maps and photographs.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Kenney was there and he tells it as he saw it! The Fifth Air Force's campaign through New Guinea and the Philippines is an epic and Kenney tells the story with a lot of pride in the people who pulled it off. He doesn't go much into the politics surrounding MacArthur and the South Western Pacific Campaign which have been covered extensively elsewhere. Kenney writes with a tremendous amount of affection for his brave flyers, many of whom did not make it through the war. I read this book after reading an account by Robert Eichelberger, one of MacArthur's ground commanders and it was interesting to compare the accounts.The two things I would have liked which could easily have been inserted (read it on kindle) would have been maps and some commentary to go back to the post war records and correct the Japanese loss numbers in the battles which appear to be overstated (as they often were).This is a well written and fast moving account of an important but obscure part of the Pacific War and is well worth the read, but keep a map of New Guinea and the Philippines handy!

I learned so much about a man that we had only heard of in vague references. His contributions to the success of the air war in the South Pacific during a most difficult time in which men and materials were in short supply most certainly turned the tide in our favor and started the long march to our ultimate successful conclusion of the war. A brilliant air war strategist who was well ahead of his time but we most certainly are thankful he was there.

Excellent read for a student of the Second World War. Gen. Kenney was in the Pacific war virtually from start to finish and was instrumental in defeating the Empire of Japan. Letting Pappy Gunn have his creative way with airplanes also helped a lot.

This book outlines the air war involving the 5th Air Force through the pacific war. A bit boring at times, but these were our fathers and relatives who gave their lives to defend The United States. If you love history you should read this.

Very good book about the 5th AF in the SW Pacific in WW2 told by the General that was making things happen. Only downside for me was the failure to mention the 22BG - the first B-26 Group to go into combat.

I found this book fascinating and easy to follow on a subject that is often overlooked in other WWII books. It well documents the entire Far East Theatre of the war. Also, gave incites to the personalities involved, especially Douglas MacArthur.

A great book. It expands your knowledge of the Pacific WW2 actions and the role of our air forces from beginning to end.

The best I have read from a general's perspective. Decisions, the reasoning and planning behind them, that answered some nagging questions.

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