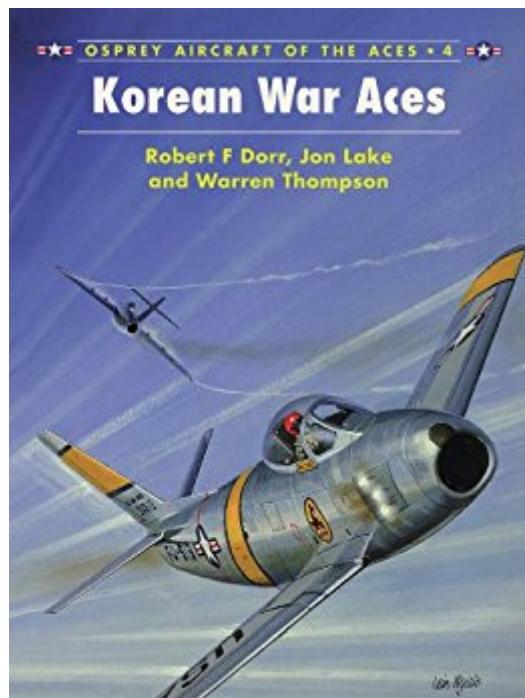


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Korean War Aces: 004 (Aircraft Of The Aces)



Synopsis

The first virtually all-jet war, the conflict in Korea saw F-86 Sabres of the USAF take on MiG-15s of the North Korean and Chinese air forces. Although the Allied pilots were initially taken aback by the ability of the communist fighter in combat, sound training and skilful leadership soon enabled Sabre pilots to dominate the dogfights over the Yalu River. In all 39 F-86 pilots achieved ace status, and a number of these are profiled in this volume, as are notable pilots from the US Navy, Marine Corps and Royal Navy and, for the first time, the handful of MiG-15 aces.

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Customer Reviews

My 86 year old Father said he didn't want anything for Christmas but he sure was glad when he opened his gift and seen this book. He served with some of these pilots and he spent the day telling war stories. Thanks for making his day!

My dad was in the air national guard during the Korean War. I got him this book and he absolutely loves it.

Item as described, prompt shipping, hubby loves it!

Excellent overall coverage of Allied Korean War aces. Good color plates, and well written commentary and anecdotal narrative.

VERYGOOD BOOK

Excellent Book!

For any reader seeking a basic understanding of the air war in Korea (1950-1953) in terms in fighter vs. fighter combat (as well as air combat in general), "KOREAN WAR ACES" is the ideal introductory book. It describes the nature of the first all-jet war, which began in earnest in November 1950 with the introduction of the Soviet MiG-15 swept-wing fighter, which soon took the measure of the F-51 Mustang, F-80 Shooting Star jet fighter, and the F-84 Thunderjet with which the United States Air Force (USAF) in Korea was largely equipped. Within a month, the F-86A Sabre swept-wing jet fighter came into wide use with the 4th Fighter Interceptor Wing (FIW) and drew first blood on December 17th, 1950. What is truly remarkable is that while the F-86 was largely outnumbered by the MiG-15 (many of which were flown by Soviet "volunteers" during 1950-51 until these units were withdrawn and replaced by North Korean and Chinese units flying the MiG-15 in combat; generally, the skills level of the North Korean and Chinese pilots was not as high as that of the Russian fighter pilots, many of whom were WWII veterans), the F-86 -in its various variants from the F-86A to the F-86F - generally held its own in aerial combat. Indeed, by war's end, the F-86 pilots enjoyed a 7:1 kill ratio against the MiG-15. Many of the USAF senior commanders leading the two F-86 equipped fighter interceptor wings in Korea (the 4th FIW and the 51st FIW) and their component squadrons were highly skilled WWII veterans who were highly innovative in developing and using tactics to counter the MiG-15. Unlike their Soviet counterparts, who failed to adopt a system by which their novice pilots could learn directly from their more experienced, battle-tested comrades (whom once they were tour-expired were quickly returned to the USSR), the USAF had a system under which pilots fresh from flight school stateside were quickly embraced by their experienced mates and "shown the ropes." As a result, a very strong, unshakeable esprit de corps was forged, and by war's end, the USAF had produced 39 aces. (The U.S. Navy produced 1 ace - Pierre Bordelon, who scored 5 victories flying the F4U Corsair with VC-3.) Like other Osprey books

of this genre, "KOREAN WAR ACES" is chockful of photos and illustrations. There are also interspersed throughout the book insightful stories of some of the leading aces (and a few non-aces) who flew the F-86. This is a book that gives the reader a tangible sense of what the all-jet war over Korea was really like. And for that reason, I highly recommend "KOREAN WAR ACES."

The Korean War is a very interesting time period for the military aviation enthusiast. It was a period where propeller driven P-51's and Corsairs battled with Mig 15's and Sabre aces shot down Yak 9's. And of course, the huge jet battles that took place over the skies of Mig Alley. A technological revolution took place during the four years of the conflict."Korean War Aces" by Robert Dorr is a plodding account of Korean Air War. All the key phases of the war are covered. Dorr dutifully documents all of the key facts. Every ace gets his due. However, if you are interested in the human story of Korean Air War, this is not the book for you. It is a pity that such dramatic story is rendered in such lifeless manner. The only reason to purchase the book is for the photographs and the color aircraft plates.

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