

479th Fighter Group 352nd Fighter Group 359th Fighter Group 354th Fighter Group 23rd Fighter Group John Stanaway Tom Ivie Jack H Smith William N Hess Carl Molesworth
 479th Fighter Group 352nd Fighter Group 359th Fighter Group 354th Fighter Group 23rd Fighter Group *John Stanaway Tom Ivie Jack H Smith William N Hess Carl Molesworth*

formed in october 1943 the 479th fg claimed an impressive history against the luftwaffe during the final year of the war originally flying p 38s the 479th s pilots had a fierce pride of arms they earned a presidential distinguished unit citation in the late summer of 1944 and were also credited with the usaaf s first german jet kill in july 1944 eventually transitioning to the p 51d in september 1944 the 479th excelled with the mustang the 479th fg was credited with scoring the last aerial victory claimed by the eighth air force s viii fighter command on 25 april 1945 by ve day 29 pilots flying in the group had earned ace status this is a dramatic insight into the last fighter group deployed by the usaaf to eighth air force in europe

nicknamed the bluenosed bastards of bodney due to the garish all blue noses of their p 51s the 352nd fg was one of the most successful fighter groups in the eighth air force credited with destroying almost 800 enemy aircraft between 1943 and 1945 the 352nd finished fourth in the ranking of all groups within viii fighter command initially equipped with p 47s the group transitioned to p 51s in the spring of 1944 and it was with the mustang that its pilots enjoyed their greatest success numerous first hand accounts 55 newly commissioned artworks and 140 photos complete this concise history of the bluenosers

a concise yet detailed history of one of the lesser known fgs of the eighth air force which made a significant contribution to the allied victory in europe nicknamed the unicorns the 359th fg was one of the last groups to arrive in the uk for service in the eto with the eighth air force first seeing action on 13 december 1943 the group initially flew bomber escort sweeps in p 47s before converting to the ubiquitous p 51 in march april 1944 throughout its time in the eto the 359th was credited with the destruction of 351 enemy aircraft destroyed between december 1943 and may 1945 the exploits of all 12 aces created by the group are detailed along with the most significant missions flown this book also discusses the various markings worn by the group s three squadrons the 368th 369th and 370th fss

featuring photographs throughout as well as special colour artwork this volume is a concise history of this fighter group and their success i think the success of the 354th as the leading group in the european theatre for aerial victories is due to several things first was the initial training of the squadrons before deployment to england colonel ken martin nurtured the group from its infancy and all the excellence that later showed through could be placed at his doorstep despite his youth he knew how to foster teamwork and demand perfection in flying there was nothing more important than getting the group off on the right foot second our pilots were taught to fly mutual

support and practised it faithfully there were no hot pilots in the 354th only excellent pilots third men like glenn eagleston gave advice and warnings about combat tactics and guarding one's tail this prepared our pilots for lurking dangers something the other groups may not have done brigadier general james howard commanding officer of the 354th fighter group

a fascinating and action packed look at the highest scoring unit within the cbi theatre telling the story of the colourful characters who fought a difficult guerrilla war against the japanese famous for the fearsome sharkmouths that adorned their planes the 23rd fg fought a guerrilla war against the japanese steadily moving pilots and aircraft from one remote air base in china to another to keep the enemy off balance because china could only be supplied by air from india there were constant shortages of aircraft fuel and ammunition with which to contend the 23rd fg met these challenges head on and by the end of the war its pilots had compiled a score of 594 aerial victories and nearly 400 ground kills the human cost was high however 126 pilots lost their lives in china while serving in the 23rd

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