ON THE SHELF BOOKS

DECADE OF JETS



Early Jet Bombers 1944-54 By: Leo Marriott ISBN: 978-1-52675-389-2 Price: £14.99 Format: 245 x 190mm Web: www.pen-and-sword.co.uk

World War Two saw significant development in the field of aerial bombing, but the advent of the jet engine would take these advances even further. This Images of War title charts the early bombers with this powerplant type from Germany,

157 pages

138 pages

Great Britain, France, the USA and Soviet Union between 1944-54. Each nation has its own section. featuring contextualisation in the form of a brief text introduction, before extended captions detail what is displayed in the accompanying photo. This charts the advancement of bomber aircraft over the period, opening with piston-powered, mapping experiments including hybrid jet/propeller aircraft and extraordinary flying wings, before focusing on pure jets. The photos are high-quality views (albeit period black-and-white studies) of aircraft both on the ground and in the air, while closeups reveal intricacies of bomb bays, ordnance and crew egress/ejection procedures, plus there are factory views and combat scenes. The Images of War series also includes a volume by the same author covering British and American jet fighter development from 1944-54, while an upcoming title will examine European jets from this period. JF

PERSIANS VERSUS ARABS



 The Iran Iraq Wars 1980-88

 By: Zachary Sex

 EAN: 8 455568 306066

 Price: €27.95 Format: A4

 Web: www.ak-interactive.com

AK Interactive's latest Modern Conflicts Profile Guide focuses on ground equipment employed by Iran and Iraq during the 1980-88 war, plus machines operated by the latter country until 2003. A chapter is devoted to each armed force, highlighting the variety of US, Soviet, British and French types used – including captured vehicles. Just single side profiles are supplied for each example, and there are small inset reference photos to accompany the digital images. Modellers will likely appreciate the attempt to depict weathered machines, along with worn markings and where patriotic slogans, photos of the respective leadership and artwork were added. There's also a small section devoted to vehicles operated by the People's Mujahedin of Iran/Mujahedin-e-Khalg insurgent group, which was supplied with numerous items by Saddam Hussein. Wheeled and tracked machines are covered equally (everything from jeeps, to reconnaissance, bridging and missile-launching platforms), and several field-modified hybrids are included, such as the addition of anti-aircraft guns or helicopter rocket pods to armoured personnel carrier and tank chassis. The final chapter provides a fascinating collection of highquality reference photos taken at the AI Taji scrapyard, north of Baghdad, offering modellers even more inspiration and information, notably on weathering effects. SF

FROM THE ASHES OF EMPIRE

Hungarian Armoured Forces in World War II By: Péter Mujzer ISBN: 978-83-65437-65-5 Price: €23.75 Format: A4 Web: www.kagero.pl

This Photosniper release from Kagero reveals how Hungarian armoured forces fought alongside Germany during World War Two. Restrictions in the 1920 Treaty of Trianon prevented Hungary from maintaining significant armed forces, yet its intention to regain control of Romania, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia - formed from former Austro-Hungarian territories - necessitated the treaty be violated. Hence, the book contains information and photos covering Italian, Swedish and licence-built Czech machines pressed into service in the 1930s. and explains how Hungary hid its forbidden military rebuilding programme. It's a similar tale to German remilitarisation in the same period and explains how the two countries lent each other support, both political and



131 pages

military, as retold in the sections covering the Yugoslavian and Soviet campaigns of 1941 through to the end of the conflict. The text is accompanied by period photos, with the sections devoted to specific vehicle types, camouflage and markings of interest to modellers. The book concludes with plans and fullcolour profiles of the machines mentioned, although the 'original photo' section contains recoloured images, rather than period plates. **JF**

SINO MILITARY AVIATION

Chinese Air Power in the 20th Century: Rise of the Red Dragon By: Andreas Rupprecht ISBN: 978-1-9503940-0-5 Price: £35.99 Format: A4 Web: www.casematepublishers.co.uk

Andreas Rupprecht's splendid treatise on Chinese air power is completed with this fifth volume on the subject (previous offerings comprised three on aircraft types and one for the geopolitical aspects). It benefits from extensive research and examines the history of the various Chinese air arms from the fall of the Qing/Manchu imperial dynasty in 1911 to the present day. Whereas the modern organisation is split between the People's Liberation Army Air and Naval Forces, their predecessors were more fragmented, with a combination of national- and warlord-controlled formations. Unfortunately, this early section has few photos or profiles to accompany the text, with most illustrations catering for just insignias. This changes from the early post-war period and has useful black and white shots of Chinese aircraft.

256 pages



although remaining narrative heavy. Each of the six main sections deals with a specific timeframe, and these feature an explanation of the various organisations in existence plus political factors and any conflicts. While the photos will undoubtedly be of use to modellers, this is more of an historical reference, with more of an emphasis on organisational structures - notably, the description of Chinese aircraft serials will be helpful to modellers wanting to build specific airframes. **SF**

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