



Peter Celis and Johan Wolfs are proud to present “Fighters Defending the Ardennes”.

Fighters Defending The Ardennes describes how Allied air power turned the tide following Hitler's surprise attack in the wooded area in the south of Belgium. When the Allies paused following their dashing advance through northern France and Belgium in the fall of 1944 to allow logistics to catch up, they gave little regard to the possibility of a significant German counterattack. On the morning of 16 December 1944, the American forces in the path of the German surprise offensive comprised a little over 80,000 troops and 240 tanks, spread thin over a 104-mile frontline. They faced over 200,000 motivated attackers supported by 500 tanks. Fortunately, when conceiving his plan, Hitler made another of his many military mistakes: it was the first time an offensive was going to be attempted in the face of an opponent who had achieved air superiority. By means of hundreds of photos, the vast majority never published before, and 39 very detailed profile drawings, *Fighters Defending The Ardennes* describes what happened during those grim and bloody weeks. During the coldest winter of the century and with appalling flying weather on several days during the battle, the American and British fighter pilots, many in their early twenties, saved the day. Risking their lives under intense ground fire, often friendly, their incessant attacks on German troops and armour and constant bombardments on factories, airfields and communication lines in the rear areas ruined Hitler's daring plan. On 7 January 1945 Hitler agreed to withdraw all forces from the Ardennes, including the SS-Panzer divisions, thus ending all offensive operations. The last German units participating in the offensive did not return to their start line until 25 January 1945, official end date of 'The Battle of the Bulge'. A little over three months later, Hitler committed suicide.

This book is now available in the following museums:

First Wing Historical Center 'The Golden Falcon' - Beauvechain - www.firstwinghistoricalcenter.com

White Bison Museum - Bierset - www.whitebison.be

Patchthof Museum 'Winter 1944' - Borlo - www.pachthof.com

Spitfire Museum - Florennes - www.museespitfire-florennes.be

Histo Centre - Sint Truiden - www.airbase-st-trond.be

You can also order the book directly from johan.airart@gmail.com

with clear mention of your name, address, e-mail address and telephone number. Once the payment has been posted, the book will be sent.

Please pay the amount due in advance to account no BE57 9733 7106 3935 in name of Johan Wolfs

mentioning “purchase book Fighters + name + number of copies”

Amount due per book:

Have the book sent to an address in Belgium: 25€ + 8,5€ = 33,5€

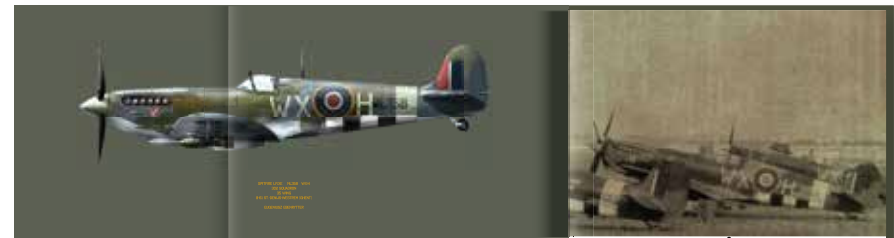
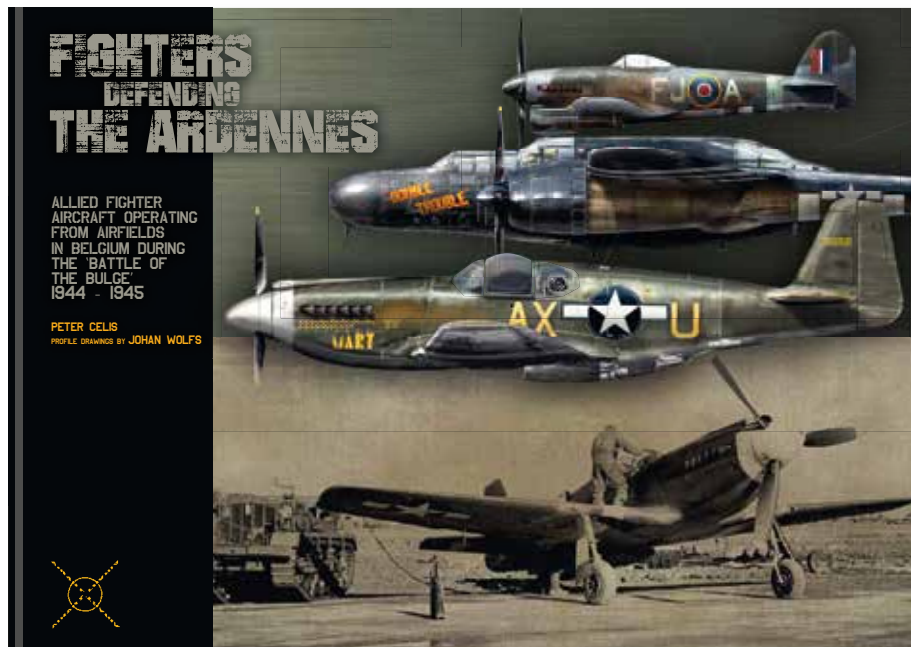
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‘FIGHTERS DEFENDING THE ARDENNES’

is a one-of-a-kind book, combining unique photos, in-dept stories from the pilots and maintenance personnel and special commissioned profile drawings.



FIGHTERS DEFENDING THE ARDENNES

A4 landscape | 208 pages | full colour | soft cover with 2 fold-out profiles

Price: 25,00 € + postage



Sometimes complete and even airworthy abandoned German aircraft were discovered. Upon arriving at their newly-assigned airfield Y-18 Le Calot/East, pilots of the 363rd Tactical Reconnaissance Group happily pose in front of their latest prize: a Messerschmitt BF 110G complete with Schräge Messer upward-firing cannons. (H. Trimble via K. Ramsey)

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Boys will be boys, and pilots will always be pilots. The curiosity and playfulness of members of the 363rd Tac Recon Group resulted in the BF 110 being put on airworthy anymore a few days after its discovery. F-3's of the 33rd Photo Reconnaissance Squadron are visible on the left and right. (H. Trimble via K. Ramsey)

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FIGHTERS DEFENDING THE ARDENNES

Chapter 1 - Allied Fighters in Action on the Continent

This section shows British and American fighters, fighter-bombers, their crews and material at their airfields in Belgium, or while on operations during the Winter of 1944-45. It also includes photos of derelict Luftwaffe aircraft and installations that were stumbled upon by the advancing Allied troops when they arrived at former German airfields in Belgium.

70 pages of unique pictures in b&w and color



Another beautiful shot showing the condition the 333rd Squadron had in mind in finding the first one downed (BF 110). This is the first German plane to be captured in the Ardennes with engines running in the open on road next to it. (H. Trimble via K. Ramsey)



Proof of a better description of the aircraft with photos and brief reports. Some ground crew in a field near the aircraft. (H. Trimble via K. Ramsey)

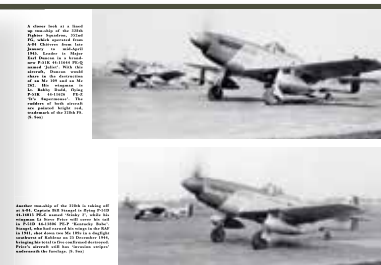
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When there have been no significant signs for a while, the 363rd Squadron has been able to find a few more. This is the first one found in the Ardennes. (H. Trimble via K. Ramsey)

In order to prevent others from capturing this aircraft, the 363rd Squadron has been able to find a few more. This is the first one found in the Ardennes. (H. Trimble via K. Ramsey)

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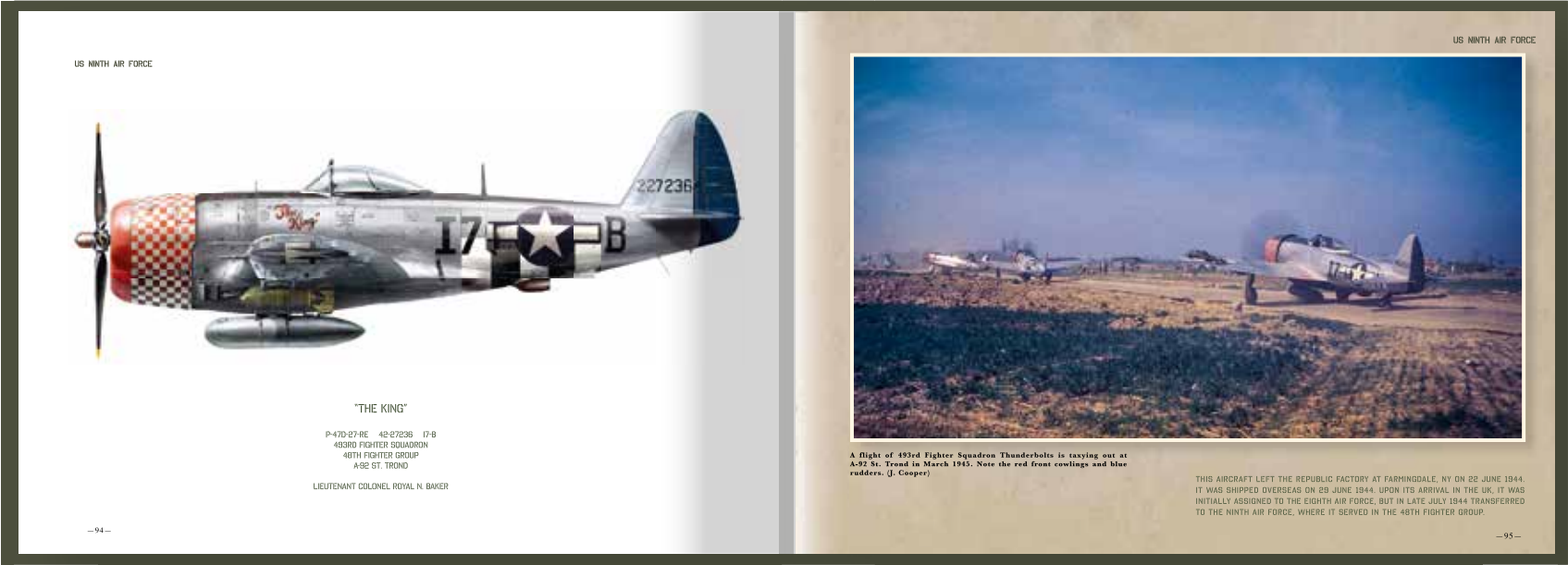


A third shot of a third one, showing the condition the 363rd Squadron had in mind in finding the first one downed (BF 110). This is the first German plane to be captured in the Ardennes with engines running in the open on road next to it. (H. Trimble via K. Ramsey)

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US NINTH AIR FORCE



FIGHTERS DEFENDING THE ARDENNES

Chapter 2 - Profiles of allied aircraft that operated from airfields in Belgium

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