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Vanished Hero: The Life, War and Mysterious Disappearance of America's WWII Strafing King (Hardback)

By Jay A. Stout

Casemate Books, United States, 2016. Hardback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. A hell-bent-for-leather fighter pilot, Elwyn G. Righetti remains one of the most elusive, yet compelling, colorful and controversial commanders of World War II. Arriving late to the war, he led the England-based 55th Fighter Group against the Nazis during the closing months of the fight with a no-holds-barred aggressiveness that transformed the group from a middling organization of no reputation into a headline-grabbing team that had to make excuses to no one. Indeed, Righetti's boldness paid off as he quickly achieved ace status and additionally scored more strafing victories-27-than any other Eighth Air Force pilot. However, success came at a high cost in men and machines. Some of Righetti's pilots resented him as a Johnny-come-lately intent on winning a sack of medals at their expense. But most lauded their spirited new commander and his sledgehammer audacity. Indeed, he made his men most famous for loco busting , as they put more than six hundred enemy locomotives out of commission-170 in just two days! Ultimately, Righetti's calculated recklessness ran full speed into the odds. His aircraft was hit while strafing an enemy airfield only...



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