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MiG Menace Over Korea: Nikolai Sutiagin, Top Ace Soviet Of The Korean War



Synopsis

Nikolai Vasil'evich Sutiagin, the top-scoring Soviet air ace of the Korean War, flew his MiG-15 in lethal dogfights against American Sabres and Australian Meteors. He is credited with at 22 'kills'. Yet the full story of his extraordinary achievements has never been told. Only now, with the opening of Russian archives, can an authoritative account of his wartime exploits be written. The authors use official records, the reminiscences of Sutiagin's comrades and his wife's diary to reconstruct in vivid detail the career of one of the great fighter pilots.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Igor Seidou and Yuri Sutiagin are authors and historians.

It is story about operations of a Russian Fighter unit operating in Korea. The Ruskies enjoyed a three to one kill ratio over the American F-86 Sabre. Where the American success comes from is their three to one kill ratio over the North Korean and Chinese pilots. The book sounds more like a historians report than a treatise on day-to-day operations in a fighter unit, or a novel.

Reading a (Korean) war story from 'the other (Russian) side of the air battles is interesting. The number of 'kill's' is always id doubt, but there is no doubt Nikolai Sutiagin was a 'Korean War Ace'.

A good read

It's very interesting to get a firsthand view of the "other side" of those pilots who flew over Mig Alley, and to receive an official confirmation of a fact we all knew anyway - that Russian & Chinese pilots flew for the North Koreans under the auspices of their air force. Fascinating views as to organizational aspects. A bit boring at times with the lack of more first-hand combat reports, which is what I was really hoping to find. Overall, this is a book I would recommend to anyone interested in the aerial "police action" of The Lost War.

I bought this for my brother. He liked it.

An interesting account of Soviet Russia's (supposedly) secret participation in the air war over North Korea. Somewhat heavy on facts and figures of individual air battles, it can become a little tedious at times. And, of course, written by a Russian and from the Russian point of view, it weighs heavily towards Russian air battle successes. Nevertheless, it is a good reference for those interested in the historical slant.

In this book we read the story of Nikolai Sutiagin, the top MiG-15 pilot during the Korean War. This book is very interesting in that it looks at a chapter of history that officially didn't exist in Russian history until the fall of the USSR allowed the story to be told for the first time. In this book we learn that, yes indeed, Americans were flying against Soviet pilots over North Korea and it was NOT North Korean or Chinese pilots behind the sticks of MiG-15s in MiG Alley. An entire Soviet air defense corps was sent to the theater, including Sutiagin's 17th Interceptor Aviation Regiment. Nikolai Sutiagin, initially a lieutenant in the Soviet Air Force whose only previous combat experience was during the brief Soviet invasion of Manchuria and Korea in the last weeks of WWII, rapidly proved himself to be an exceptional pilot behind the controls of a jet fighter. The daily life of the Soviet pilots and support personnel are looked at in this book, which gives a few eye-opening glimpses into the efforts to hide the presence of Soviet pilots in China (issuing them Chinese uniforms!) and the morale issues which were a problem. There are quite a few first-hand accounts of aerial combat but they are difficult to follow at times. The main weakness I found in the book was the minimal discussion of the ground-controlled interception and the role radar played in the successes the Soviet enjoyed. Still, there is more than enough in this book to keep the reader satisfied. Good photos and excellent writing. Definitely a plus for this subject!

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