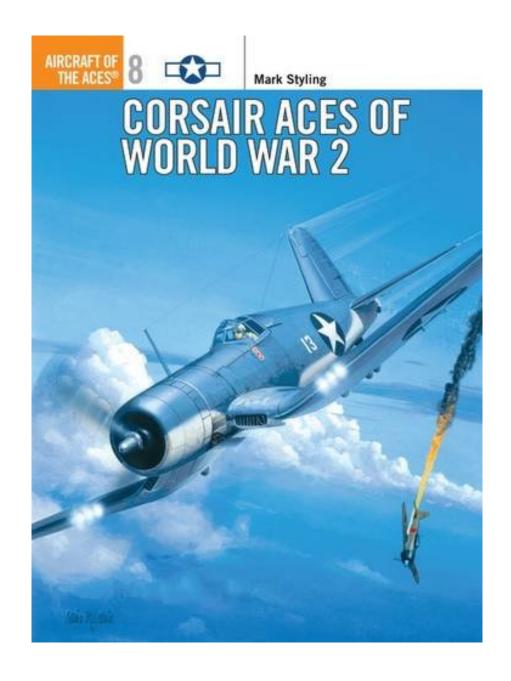


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Osprey's Aircraft of the Aces series combines full colour artwork, the best archival contemporary photography, and first hand accounts from aces to bring history's greatest airborne conflicts to life.

About the Author

Mark Styling is better known to readers of the Aircraft of the Aces and Combat Aircraft series as the profile artist for such titles as Hellcat Aces of World War 2, Japanese Army Air Force Aces 1937–45 and P–61 Units of World War 2. A full-time commercial artist, Mark works from his home in the East London suburb of Hackney.

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The speed with which the Corsair was rushed into service as a land-based fighter obliged the pilots to learn on the job. The aircraft soon proved to be superior to the Japanese Zero and played a major part in the destruction of Japan's elite air forces in the South Pacific. Later, in an effort to counter the Kamikaze threat, the Corsair was once again hurriedly pressed into service; this time in its originally intended role as a shipboard fighter. This versatile aircraft saw service with the US Navy and Marines, the British Fleet Air Arm and the RNZAF. Most of the 4FU pilots who recount their experiences within these pages considered it to be the best all-round fighter in the Pacific theatre.

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Most helpful customer reviews

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

A good book about Corsair aces

By Nakita

Flying the F4F Wildcat early in the Pacific war, pilots were trying to gain the upper hand against the superior Japanese A6M Zero. But their Wildcats lacked speed, rate of climb and maneuverability. But with the new F4U Corsair, pilots found that the F4U was more than a match for Japanese fighters.

Corsairs evolved from the early 'bird cage' F4U-1As, to the later F4U-1Ds, these planes struck fear in

Japanese pilots who dared go against the 'whistling death'.

This book is an early book of Ospreys 'Aircraft of the aces' series.

I found the first hand accounts a little heavy in this book. Now, I like first hand accounts from aces, but this book contains 85% first hand accounts and 15% information from the author. The first hand accounts were only from a few aces, so you only get limited variety of information on the aces. I was also a little disappointed that there was not more information on Gregory 'Pappy' Boyington, who is one of the most famous USMC aces of the Pacific. Thus 4 stars instead of my usual 5.

I like the later Osprey books with balanced information from the author and first hand accounts from aces.

I did find that the pictures, color plates of both planes and pilots were well done.

If you want to read about Corsair aces about WWII, then buy the book, but you'll have more first hand accounts than information on aces.

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful.

A broad overview of the Corsair in World War II

By Marc L. Tavasci

The Corsair is hands down my favorite fighter of World War II, so I might be a little biased in my review. This books provides a very broad overview of the Corsair and the men who flew it in World War II, with several first-hand accounts of action against Japanese aircraft. I was pleasantly surprised to find this book also contained chapters on the Royal Navy's use of the Corsair, as well as the Royal New Zealand Air Force's.

Since this is one of the earliest books in Osprey's Aircraft of the Aces series, it just scratches the surface of the Corsair's service. Units such as VMF-214 (The Black Sheep) and VF-17 (The Jolly Rogers) get a bit more ink than others, but since the book is only 96 pages long, one can't expect details on every unit. The color plates are very nice, but since the U.S. Navy and Marines tended to not decorate their planes very much, they tend to all look fairly similar.

Pick up Walter Musciano's "Corsair Aces", Barrett Tillman's "Corsair" and Bruce Gamble's "Swashbucklers and Black Sheep" for greater details about the legendary Corsair.

15 of 15 people found the following review helpful.

Great book! Lots of information and picutres!

By Mark Austin Olinger

Mark Styling and Jerry Scutts have given the air enthusiasts, historians, and Corsair buffs another one in Osprey's "Aircraft of the Aces" series. Like the others, Corsair Aces of World War 2 contains a great deal of information and carefully selected photos. It has the usual collection of excellent illustrations, particularly color prints. This book covers a much overlooked area of aviation history dealing with Corsairs in the Pacific Theater and includes our allies. This book gives these outstanding pilots their due. Perfect for US Navy, US Marine Corps, and Allied Corsair enthusiasts. It is a great book and I recommend it highly. Corsair Aces of World War 2 is well worth having for anyone interested in the exploits of Corsair fighter pilots.

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