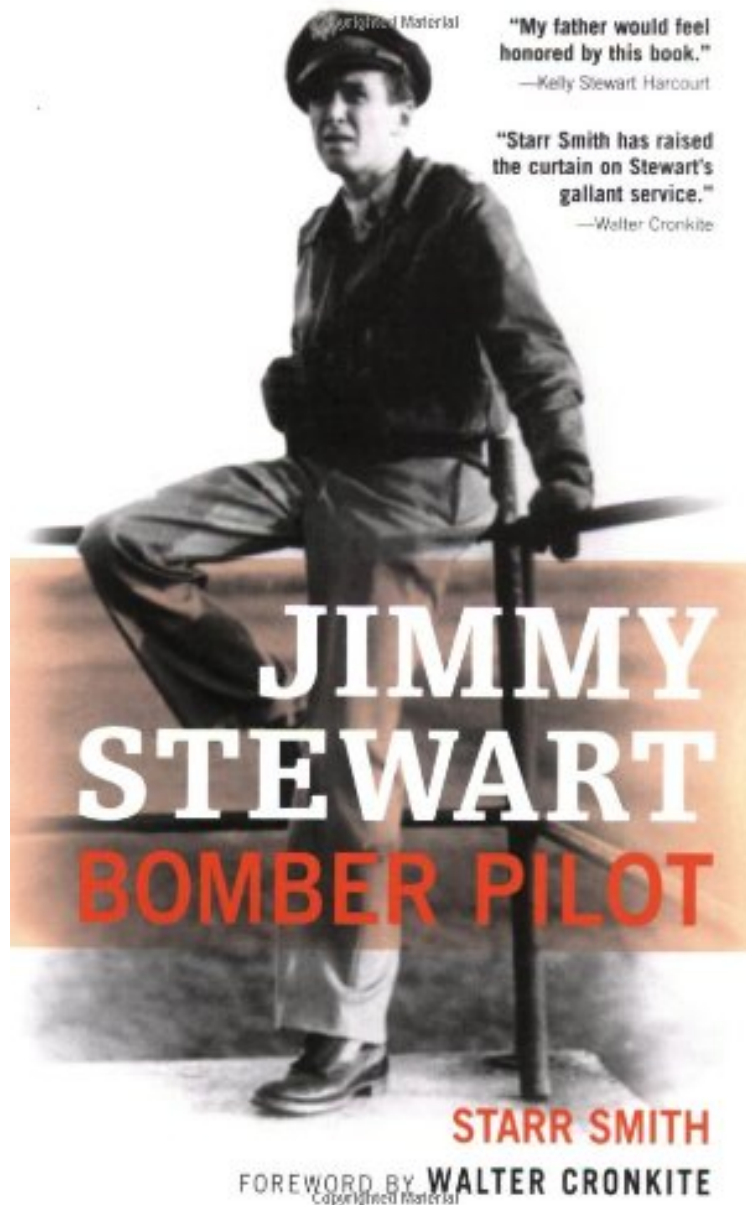


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## Jimmy Stewart: Bomber Pilot

*Starr Smith*

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#118551 in Books Starr Smith 2006-11-15 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.50 x .75 x 5.50l, .90 #File Name: 0760328242288 pages History Military Aviation Biographies Memoirs World War II | File size: 46.Mb

**Starr Smith : Jimmy Stewart: Bomber Pilot** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jimmy Stewart: Bomber Pilot:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Jimmy Stewart Bomber Pilot Review By Louis J. Barbier Jimmy

Stewart: Bomber Pilot This is a fantastic read! If you want to know what Jimmy Stewart the Bomber Pilot did during World War II this is the definitive book you should select. This is a well research book filled with personal anecdotes about Jimmy Stewart the World War II hero. I loved it! The book gave an insight into the personal history of Jimmy Stewart from his early days growing up in a small town in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Then going on to Hollywood, California and becoming a major box office star in great demand. All during this time his love for flying and flying was something he did every time he had an opportunity. Then in the early days of 1941 he realized that the United States would be in a global conflict so he left Hollywood to become a US Army Air Corps pilot. It was not easy for Jimmy Stewart because many at first thought that he was going to be a film star who had joined the service for publicity only. But for Jimmy Stewart this was not his way. Whatever he attempted he worked extremely hard to be the best. He was that and proved it with a real tough assignment with the Eighth Air Force in England. That is not where the story ends; no, there is much more but I invite you to read this book: Jimmy Stewart Bomber Pilot. Starr Smith his biographer has written a great story shedding much light on Jimmy Stewarts military career. Yes go ahead see for yourself that his legacy offers future generations what can be done and accomplish if you work really hard and take care of those you lead; an outstanding history of Jimmy Stewarts life! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent Military Biography of James Stewart By CatMan Very good book about Stewart's military service during WWII and beyond. Stewart wasn't like many of the other movie stars who were satisfied to stay behind and do USO shows. Nothing wrong with that. Keeping up good morale is very important. But Stewart was different, he wanted combat. He certainly got it as he piloted 20 bombing missions with most of them being very dangerous. Not many milk runs in his missions. He was well liked by his men and seemed to be as was on camera, a very good and amiable person. This book flows well and keeps you interested all the way through it. If you like Stewart or like reading about WWII and the men who served in it this book is for you. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Why We Won By RoamingDoc First, the content is five star but the presentation is not so I gave it four. Jimmy Stewart was far more than just a successful actor and entertainer. Anyone who would, while they had the soft life beckoning from behind, enter the 8th Air Force and fly honest to goodness bombing raids over Europe was far removed from Tinsel Town and gilded statues. I had heard of Mr Stewart's war time efforts and, while the writing is a bit simplistic and perhaps repetitive, this book gives you a front row seat to his bravery (and it defines not just Stewart's but all those courageous men with whom he flew and worked during WWII), perseverance, and intelligence in the face of real life ending danger. The 8th Air Force had a mortality rate that exceeded the USMC in the Pacific and there was by no means anyone immune to that potential. The book takes from the memories and memoirs of men who served with Stewart and their stories are entwined with his making this not just a story of a Hollywood actor who "went to war" but one of parity, respect and affections that lasted a lifetime after the conflict. Others share the stories of Jimmy Stewart's efforts to 'get into the fray' and describe his positive and uplifting effect on those he commanded and served with in the skies and command rooms of the Army Air Force. How men 'felt safe' when Capt. Stewart was leading the raids and "felt they'd all come back". The author describes the terrible "flak" over the targets of Germany and then the "fighters", how men who shared Stewart's commitment to excellence fought for the world's freedoms and did it day after day after day even as their friends fell from the skies and died in record numbers. Smith takes us through Jimmy Stewart's upbringing, family life, early acting and then his draft experiences (culminating in 'deferral') followed by his "enlistment" because "we all had to do our part!" We may remember him in "It's A Wonderful Life" or "Destry Rides Again" but the story of how he rose through the ranks, refused special treatment, was respected and deeply liked by the men who fought with him, these are special accolades and describe a man that exceeded his celluloid reputation and status. It is a fine book about a very fine young man who sacrificed several years out of a story book life to don the uniform of the US Army Air Corp and help defeat Nazi Germany. It gives new meaning to Stewart's name. I'll never see another movie where he stars without thinking, "this was a cake walk for a guy who risked it all 20,000 feet over Germany just like the regular Joes!"

Of all the celebrities who served their country during World War II -and they were legion -Jimmy Stewart was unique. On December 7th, when the attack on Pearl Harbor woke so many others to the reality of war, Stewart was already in uniform - as a private on guard duty south of San Francisco at the Army Air Corps Moffet Field. Seeing war on the horizon, Jimmy Stewart, at the height of his fame after Mr. Smith Goes to Washington and his Oscar-winning turn in The Philadelphia Story in 1940, had enlisted several months earlier. Jimmy Stewart, Bomber Pilot chronicles his long journey to become a bomber pilot in combat. Author Starr Smith, the intelligence officer assigned to the movie star, recounts how Stewart's first battles were with the Air Corps high command, who insisted on keeping the naturally talented pilot out of harm's way as an instructor pilot for B-17 Flying Fortresses and B-24 Liberators. By 1944, however, Stewart managed to get assigned to a Liberator squadron that was deploying to England to join the mighty Eighth Air Force. Once in the thick of it, he rose to command his own squadron and flew twenty combat missions, including one to Berlin.

From Publishers Weekly Smith (Only the Days Were Long) served with Stewart (1908-1997) in the Eighth Air Force

during 1943-1944. They were stationed in East Anglia, England, but Smith opens this memoir of their service with Stewart's New York homecoming in 1945. By then, Stewart had led 20 missions over enemy territory and had been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, along with other decorations. Smith, whose later career included stints working with Air Force brass and in the reserves, takes readers through Stewart's entire WWII service, including his fight with the studios to let him enlist, his training and his deployment. The bulk of the book concerns action in Germany, and will be of great interest to flight squad buffs. The final chapters make brief stops at Stewart's post-war marriage, his eventual promotion to Brigadier General and the establishment of the Jimmy Stewart Museum in Indiana and the Mighty Eighth Heritage Museum. Smith's clear admiration for Stewart comes through on every page, but with an understatement that even George Bailey could have lived with. 64 bw photos. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist This partial biography and its subject are fairly described as unassuming but highly competent. Smith served as an intelligence officer with Stewart and frankly admires him. The movie star possessed both an Oscar and a pilot's license before World War II broke out. Too old for cadet training, he took regular pilot training and transitioned into heavy bombers. Ultimately, he flew 20 combat missions in the daunting B-24, rising to the command of a wing and filling several staff positions with equal capability. Several senior-officer mentors, recognizing his competence as more than merely respectable, secured him combat assignments when Hollywood and the air force would probably rather have kept him making training films. His postwar service eventually saw him attain the rank of brigadier general in the Air Force Reserve and exceed Mach 2 in the back seat of a B-58. Smith un-star-biographically dishes no dirt, possibly because, like other Stewart limners before him, he found none to dish, though he might have quarreled with Stewart's old-fashioned Middle American virtues, one supposes. Roland Green Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved WWII History, March 2007 It goes without saying that James Maitland Stewart was one of Hollywood's greatest and most enduring stars. Be he was also an American patriot of the first order Veteran journalist Starr Smith has captured the true essence of the man in this superbly written and profusely illustrated biography With so many of the current generation of Hollywood stars decidedly antiwar and antimilitary, this book is a refreshing, nostalgic look back at a time when personal fame, money and safety took a back-seat to the ideals of duty, honor and country. Not to be missed.