

Warthog (P)

By William L. Smallwood



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This volume is about the special pilots and the missions they flew in Operation Desert Storm during the Gulf War. Built around a two-ton, 20-foot-long Gattling gun, the Warthog was very successful in its Desert Storm baptism of fire. With the full co-operation of the Air Force, the author interviewed over 100 A-10 pilots immediately after the war. The hangar-talk of Fish, Gator, Growth, Fannspeed and the other "Hog drivers" tells the story of the A-10s unlikely rise to glory, and what it's like to fly combat in a plane so ugly that it was dubbed the Warthog. William L. Smallwood is the author of "Strike Eagle: Flying the F-15E in the Gulf War".



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Warthog (P) By William L. Smallwood Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

The A-10 is a slow, stick-and-rudder airplane built around a Gatling gun capable of firing 4000 rounds a minute. It is an ugly beast (thus its nickname: Warthog), but "hog drivers" think highly of it because of its ability to remain aloft after absorbing gross punishment from enemy aircraft. Smallwood, who interviewed 143 of the pilots who flew the A-10 in the Gulf War, here presents an exhilarating, fact-packed narrative that conveys the emotional as well as the technical/tactical aspects of the Warthog effort during Desert Storm. In the war's first phase, A-10 squadrons carried out a precise preemptive campaign against targets that could affect the outcome of the allied ground campaign. Throughout that four-day operation, A-10s provided close air support for advancing coalition forces and decimated two Republican Guard divisions. The Warthogs flew an average of 193 missions per day for 42 days and are credited with destroying at least half of the Iraqi armor. Six Warthogs were lost. Two pilots were killed. A valuable addition to air-war literature. Military Book Club main selection.

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From Kirkus Reviews

A valentine for one of the ugliest, albeit most lethally effective, warplanes ever built--as well as for the men who flew them during the Desert Storm campaign. Drawing on interviews with over one hundred A-10 pilots who served in the Persian Gulf during the 1990-91 hostilities, Smallwood (himself an aviator and Korean War vet) offers riveting perspectives on aerial combat. Setting the stage with an informative briefing on how, in the 70's, the Air Force developed the A-10 (a.k.a. "Warthog") as a means of supporting ground troops with massive firepower, he moves into anecdotal vignettes detailing the ways in which so-called "hog drivers" and their commanders whiled away the weary hours of the calm before the storm in Saudi Arabia's inhospitable clime. At the heart of his narrative, however, are vivid accounts of how A-10s accomplished their tank-busting missions and then some once the battle was joined. Tasked, among other objectives, to take out missile launchers and artillery emplacements far behind the front lines (assignments normally reserved for jet fighters), the slow-moving, heavily armed Warthogs were credited with over half the bomb damage inflicted on Iraqi forces and installations. Employing improvisational tactics, A-10s also flew reconnaissance and assisted in rescues of coalition pilots; they even scored air-to- air kills, downing a couple of enemy choppers. Indeed, the plane's ungainly Gatling-gun platform performed so well that pilots demanded their craft be redesignated ``RFOA-10" (for ``reconnaissance/fighter/observation/attack"). An absorbing tale of how a decidedly ugly duckling became a military hero of some consequence. (Nineteen photos, map--not seen) (Main Selection of the Military Book Club) -- Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Review

"Exhilarating, fast-paced narrative."

"One of the more valuable additions to the literature of the Persian Gulf War."

"An absorbing tale of how a decidedly ugly duckling became a military hero."

"Smallwood writes so well that we feel the sweat in the small of our backs and the adrenaline pumping. . . ."

"A fitting tribute."

"As fascinating a flying tale as you will ever read, and it's all true."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Sylvia Dasilva:

Do you certainly one of people who can't read pleasant if the sentence chained from the straightway, hold on guys this kind of aren't like that. This Warthog (P) book is readable by simply you who hate those straight word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable reading through experience without leaving actually decrease the knowledge that want to deliver to you. The writer connected with Warthog (P) content conveys the thought easily to understand by a lot of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the written content but it just different by means of it. So, do you nevertheless thinking Warthog (P) is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

Nancy Ochoa:

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