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Aviation's Most Wanted: The Top 10 Book of Winged Wonders, Lucky Landings, and Other Aerial Oddities

Steven A Ruffin

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aviation's most wanted™



by steven a. ruffin

the top 10 book of
unlikely heroes,
lucky landings,
and other aerial oddities

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Steven A Ruffin : Aviation's Most Wanted: The Top 10 Book of Winged Wonders, Lucky Landings, and Other Aerial Oddities before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Aviation's Most Wanted: The Top 10 Book of Winged Wonders, Lucky Landings, and Other Aerial Oddities:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Two StarsBy Ron Yanceytrivia....not very interesting1 of 3 people found the following review helpful. kind of boringBy JustformommaMy son is an aviation enthusiast. I bought this book along with some other aviation books. This one however is NOT for children as it has some minor cursing and a chapter on Sexcapades. Fortunately, my nine year old let me know. My bad, I guess we, parents have to preview EVERYTHING!!! After that, I read some of the book and found it quite boring.6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Potted Guide to the Wonderful World of Aviation!By Mike O'ConnorPotomac Books really hit paydirt with their 'Most Wanted' series. Thus far Potomac has cranked out about two dozen titles including basketball, wrestling, Hollywood, espionage, dogs and NASCAR. Having an lifelong interest in aviation history and trivia, I was interested to see Steven Ruffin's book with its aviation theme. I have to say it's one neat little item, a real treasure trove of fascinating facts and amazing stories.Ruffin's book is subtitled 'The Top 10 Book of Winged Wonders, Lucky Landings and Other Aerial Oddities.' Within its 313 pages you'll find dozens of top 10 lists arranged under the topics of Notable Flights; Fantastic Flying Machines; Aeronauts, Aviators and Others in High Places; Flying to Kill - Aerial Combat; Flying the Skies, Friendly and Otherwise; Aviation in Print and on Screen; and Miscellaneous Aeronautica.That breakdown translates to lists of the heaviest airplanes ever flown, worst air disasters, helicopter milestones, elite air combat units, busiest airports, aviation controversies and so on. Here's some samples from various lists: The #1 pilot with the best stuff - Jimmy Doolittle; the #1 Unforgettable Aircraft Name - Spirit of St. Louis; the #1 Silver Screen Air Classic - Twelve O'Clock High; and, lastly, the #1 Naughtiest Airplane Nickname - The Baltimore Whore (the B-26).The entries are generally accurate though I came across several clunkers in various air combat lists (i.e. The exact circumstances of Mick Mannock's death aren't "still a mystery." He was downed by ground fire. LBJ's June 1942 combat mission was a complete hoax and has been widely discredited. Pappy Boyington's total of 28 victories is no longer accepted because he inflated his score with the AVG).Despite the occasional hiccup, I enjoyed Ruffin's book and recommend it to all aviation buffs and trivia nuts. It's an interesting, informative and sometimes funny trip through the history of flight.

Ever since the caveman gazed longingly at the winged creatures above him, mankind has been enamored with the idea of flightof just taking off and soaring away. Steven A. Ruffin celebrates that spirit, that sense of wonder, with Aviations Most Wanted: The Top 10 Book of Winged Wonders, Lucky Landings, and Other Aerial Oddities. With dozens of top-ten lists focusing on notable flights, memorable planes, famous and infamous aviators, aircraft combat, air traveland so much more, Ruffin provides a treasure trove of fun facts and amazing anecdotes celebrating the worlds love affair with flight, plus the hurt that accompanies any deep love. Will Rogers died in a plane crash near Point Barrow, Alaska, with aviation legend Wiley Post at the controls. Rogers was writing an article at the time of the crash; eerily, the last word he typed was death. Isoroku Yamamoto, who masterminded the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, met his fate in similarly sneaky fashion. U.S. forces intercepted and decoded information on Yamamotos travel plans and Pearl Harbored his plane, shooting it down into the island jungle of Bougainville. The safest seat in a crash depends on if you crash on takeoff or on landingso flip a coin! Youll read about the first and worst of flight, aces and races, and everything from crimes, sex, and controversy to planes so fast they can outrun the sun. With Aviations Most Wanted youll get the history of flight from the early balloon adventures of the eighteenth century until the present, laid out with trivia and tales to amuse and amaze!

About the AuthorSteven A. Ruffin is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel and licensed private pilot with a lifelong interest in all aspects of the history of flight. He has lectured and written on a variety of aviation topics, and his articles have appeared in Aviation History, Over the Front, Air Power History, and Aviation 100. He also contributed several entries to Walter Boynes comprehensive aviation reference work, Air Warfare: An International Encyclopedia. He lives in Bellbrook, Ohio.