



Air-to-Ground Battle for Italy

By Michael C McCarthy

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Paperback. 116 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.0in. x 0.4in. FROM THE AUTHOR: Pearl Harbor galvanized America to convert peacetime production capacity to war levels, intensify recruiting, and expand every facet of its military training system. Those of us who wanted to fly found on Monday, 8 December 1941, that a difficult written test would satisfy the two years of college prerequisite to enter the Aviation Cadet aircrew-training program. We still faced a rigorous physical exam and batteries of psychological and intelligence evaluations plus specific aptitude tests. The process was intense, demanding, and time consuming. Only 41 survivors of several hundred original applicants in the Boston area became aviation cadets on 18 March 1942. Five days later, we reported to Santa Ana Army Air Base, California, for preflight training the first of four phases en route to pilot, navigator, or bombardier wings. Santa Ana was a new base with no roads or buildings. Tents were used for every purpose. The wettest rainy season in years converted the base into a muddy quagmire. Amazingly, the program stayed on schedule despite almost impossible living and working conditions. I found a remarkable...

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