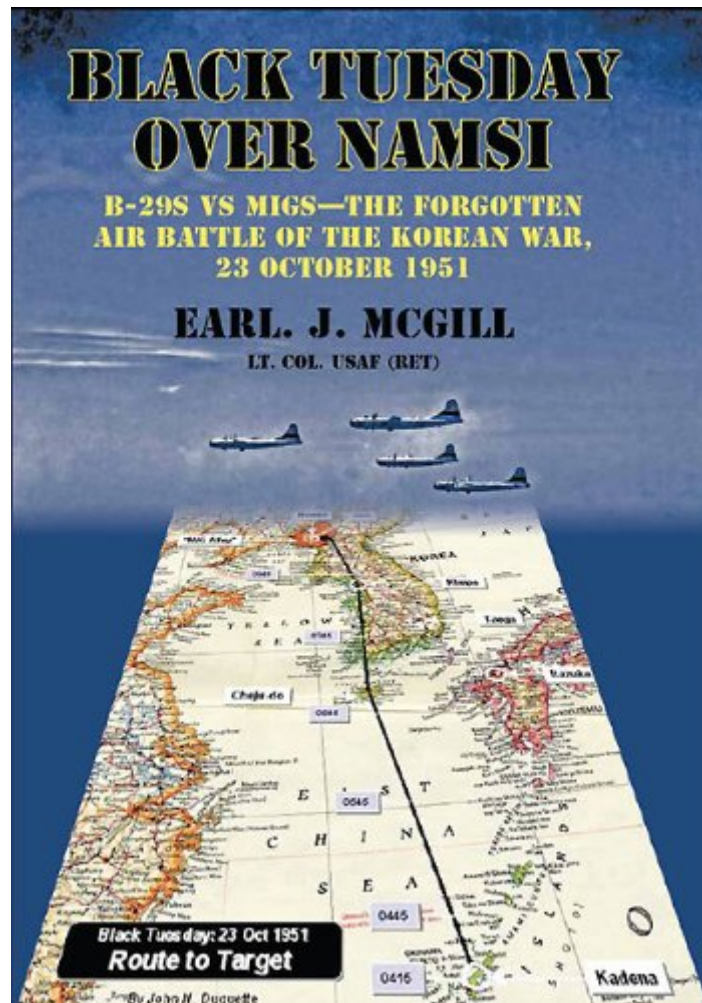


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Black Tuesday Over Namsi: B-29s Vs MiGs - The Forgotten Air Battle Of The Korean War, 23 October 1951



Synopsis

An hour and a half before sunup, nine B-29s of the 307th Bombardment Wing lifted off from Kadena Air Force Base, Okinawa on a bombing mission against Namsi, a North Korean airfield under construction in the heart of MiG Alley. Five and a half hours later they would engage in an air battle that would forever change the conduct of strategic aerial bombardment. Six of the nine would not return, the highest percentage of United States bombers ever lost on a major mission. Astonishingly, virtually nothing has been published about this event. Official Air Force historical records mention it only in passing and literature of the period too often emphasizes the gung-ho aspect than the grim reality of war. *Black Tuesday Over Namsi* chronicles the calamitous B-29 daylight-bombing mission flown by the 307th Bombardment Wing on 23 October 1951 against Namsi Airfield. What many experts consider the epic air battle of the Korean War and perhaps the greatest jet engagement in the history of aerial warfare has largely become another forgotten battle in a forgotten war. Here, Lt. Col McGill presents the facts and circumstances of the mission from first briefing to final landing. This book also records, from verifiable historical documents, the broader events and conditions that led up to the confrontation, plus the firsthand accounts of aircrew members and ground personnel who were there. Allied and Soviet perspectives are examined; statements made by the MiG pilots describe the attack; and eyewitnesses to the event have supplied photographs of the mission and its aftermath, including the aerial photo of the Namsi Airfield that was used to plan the mission. This thoroughly researched narrative history is enhanced by numerous photographs, a bibliography, and an index to full names, places and subjects. This is the story of the Americans and Russians who clashed in the skies above Namsi, the events leading up to it, Black Tuesday's historical impact on aerial warfare, and, for the first time, fresh conclusions based on a careful analysis of the specific factors that went into the execution of this and other bombing missions.

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Customer Reviews

I first bought the paperback version that Mr. McGill published several years ago. Below is the review I posted for that edition. Since I gave that copy to my father I jumped when I heard that it was republished in hardback with updated pictures. I have re-read the book and thoroughly enjoyed the additional photos and updates. If you have any interest in B-29s you will not be disappointed. Bob A., 2012. Review of Paperback edition: I bought this book directly from the publisher since it was sold out and I have thoroughly enjoyed it. I have several interests in the subject, I am a military history buff with a BA in History, I am a US Navy Pilot with 15 years experience flying P-3 and C-130 aircraft, and finally my grandfather was aircrew with 50 missions in a 307th BG aircraft over Korea. This air battle lasted only minutes but Mr McGill does an outstanding job of clearly presenting the battle and its importance in later operations. The strength of the book in my opinion is his knowledge and descriptions of the B-29 operations in general in regards to command and control structure, (or lack of between Bombing Groups), mission selection, tactics, and targeting execution. His research of the Soviet opponents makes for a balanced presentation and helps explain the official but conflicting accounts from both sides. His themes that deviation from accepted and proven tactics, misuse of technology (SHORAN), poor strategic vision in target selection, and complacency ring familiar in my experience in today's military and are worthy of study by this generation of military officers.

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