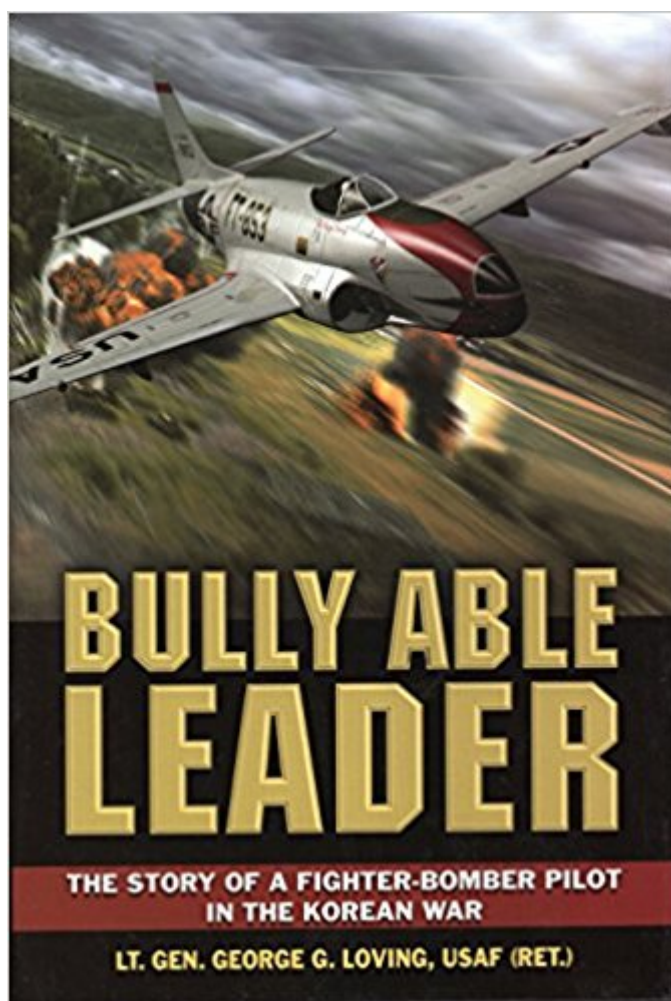


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Bully Able Leader: The Story Of A Fighter-Bomber Pilot In The Korean War



Synopsis

Valuable insights of the flying environment that earmarked this first war of extensive use of jet combat aircraft. --Col. Joe McCue, USAF (Ret.), Air Power History Action-packed memoir by an American pilot and squadron commander in the Korean War What it was like to fly the F-80 Shooting Star against MiGs and ground targets Author flew 112 combat missions in five major campaigns in 1950-51 "Bully Able Leader" was the author's radio call sign

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Loving masterfully describes the progress of the war and the living conditions on bases . . . [and] superbly chronicles the many close-support and interdiction missions." (Air & Space Power Journal 2013-04-01)

Lt. Gen. George G. Loving, USAF (Ret.), also flew 151 combat missions in World War II, becoming a P-51 Mustang ace. He later served as commander of the Sixth Allied Tactical Air Force and the U.S. Fifth Air Force. His awards include the Distinguished Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, Silver Star, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross with Oak Leaf Cluster, and Air Medal with 24 Oak Leaf Clusters. His previous book is Woodbine Red Leader (978-0-89141-813-9). Loving lives in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Bully Able Leader is not a comprehensive history of the Korean air war. It is one man's view, mainly from the cockpit of a F-51 or F-80 fighter bomber during the first year of the conflict. The author,

George G. Loving, rises to become a Lieut. Gen. in the air force -- likely a product of his Korean War experience where he not only proved himself in the air, but also on the ground as an air operations officer and squadron commander. In other words, this memoir is about more than just fighter jockeying; it is a fairly broad slice of how the U.S. air force fought its first jet-war. The editing, maps, and layout of the book are less than great, but the picture gallery is a very nice touch, and to get right to the point, the story is compelling -- even riveting. As with the best war memoirs, there is much to learn about men in battle in this account, which describes close air support, interdiction, air superiority, and even the use of strategic bombing from July 1950 through July 1951. Overall, despite its drawbacks, highly recommended for the student of modern air power, the Korean War, leadership in war, and the human experience.

Excellent book. Received in good order

The title of this book is rather misleading, but it most probably reflects the author's original intention. While he wanted to write his own story, mostly due to lack of a detailed diary and due to the over 40 years that elapsed between the 1950/1951 events he's describing in Korea and the actual writing of this book, he ended up using the 9th FBS/49th FBW diary as his main source. Accordingly, this book is rather general in his descriptions, sticking to a pattern "Flight of 4 F-80, flew armed reconnaissance along road 11, after dropping bombs strafed with machineguns, FAC reported good results". At least from the title I was expecting a lot more personal data and much more details of this largely uncovered time period. Granted that being a fighter-bomber pilot will not allow you to write gripping air-to-air encounter reports, but nevertheless having been part of such a big war effort and during the most intense period of the Korean War (when the US/UN troops were almost expelled from the peninsula) should have provided with an interesting source material. From the book you get the impression that General Loving was too busy fighting a war and thus had no time to keep a diary, which is fair enough and cannot be condemned. However, if you want to write a book titled "The Story of a Fighter-Bomber Pilot in the Korean War", then you will need a lot of own material. I think it would have been a wise decision if General Loving would have instead written a book about the 9th FBS/49th FBW participation in the Korean War, in which he could have included his own and other pilot's stories. But since he did not, I have to rate what he is presenting with 2.5*, mainly for his commendable effort and for the short but intense POW description added as an afterword. Overall, as a personal memoir not recommended; if you need to know some detail about the 9th FBS/49th FBW in Korea, then you will find it here.

I did enjoy the book, though I found it lacked a bit of charisma. It was fine as a documented history, but I didn't really get to learn much about Lt. Gen. George Loving the man. The content aside, something I did find rather distracting was that the book was loaded with grammatical errors and typos. This suggested to me that the editor didn't do a particularly good job of proof reading before going to print.

Very interesting read on life as an F80 pilot during the Korean war! lots of close calls and good detail of the missions and rudimentary risky air operations in the early part of the war! Lots of missions, but not allot of detail, but still a good read!

good read. i suggest getting woodbine red leader and reading it first but no matter. they both are good tales of a combat pilot.

A well-put-together eye-witness account of the airwar over Korea, very well written. As it IS an eye-witness account it lacks the broad scope of a detached history book on all angles of the war, but as a behind-the-scenes personal telling of what really happened from the view of the cockpit, this book is invaluable.

After his WWII memoir, I was expecting a good read and was not disappointed. Loving sheds light into the other dangerous air war in Korea as a F-51 pilot and the transition to F-80s along with the differences and life on a barren air strip. This book was a page-turner and I really enjoyed it.

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