



## A Wing and a Prayer: The "Bloody 100th" Bomb Group of the U.S. Eighth Air Force in Action over Europe in World War II

By Harry H. Crosby

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A riveting memoir of a World War II Air Force navigator brings the reader on a series of harrowing missions over Germany, facing walls of flak and machine gun fire, and his raunchy, boisterous exploits between missions. National ad/promo.

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**A Wing and a Prayer: The "Bloody 100th" Bomb Group of the U.S. Eighth Air Force in Action over Europe in World War II** By Harry H. Crosby **Bibliography**

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**Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Crosby "did everything wrong" on his first WW II mission as navigator in a B-17 crew, but soon demonstrated a natural talent that elevated him to the position of navigator of a bomb group. This meant he was responsible for assembling as many as 2000 warplanes from various bases in England, leading them to their targets, then guiding the air crews home. The casualty rate was frightful, and Crosby here describes how he accomplished his intricate work despite growing fears of death or maiming. Anecdotes abound in these incident-rich pages, some funny, others cruel, like the tale of how a crew rid itself of an obnoxious member by convincing him that their plane had been hit so seriously that they had to bail out, and he alone did--over Germany. Written from the unusual perspective of a navigator, this is a compelling account of the air war against Germany. Crosby, now retired, is former director of Harvard's Writing Center. Illustrations. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From Library Journal

A navigator with the Eighth Air Force in England during World War II, Crosby served in one of the most badly mauled groups of the theater, the famous "Bloody 100th." He rose through the ranks, by his own admission blundering through his first few missions, then gained skill and a professional reputation to become group navigator. Along the way there were more than 32 missions over German-held territory and the loss of many friends and fellow air crew. Crosby's name has figured in nearly every history of the Eighth; it is valuable to have his lucid and careful descriptions of action in his own words. He re-creates for us the sense of how it was when European skies were filled with noise and danger, when the fate of millions hung in the balance. An evocative and excellent memoir for general and specialized collections.

- *Mel D. Lane, Sacramento, Cal.*

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From Kirkus Reviews

An affecting, ambivalent memoir from an Army Air Force veteran who survived the savage aerial engagements of WW II's ETO. Lead navigator in the 100th Bomb Group, which sustained staggering casualties at the Luftwaffe's hands, Crosby was responsible for guiding flotillas of UK-based B-17s to targets throughout occupied Europe. An archetypal straight arrow from mid-America, the well-educated and happily married author had little use for daredevils, drunks, goldbricks, lady-killers, or anyone else who treated combat as a less-than-serious business. Nor did he much appreciate the USAAF's bent for giving pilots preference (over bombardiers or pathfinders) on promotions, decorations, and command billets. Crosby provides a vivid account of what life was like on and off the flight line in East Anglia, as well as in the unfriendly skies above the Continent, where his notable accomplishments were matched by his hairbreadth escapes. During his extended tour, for example, he directed missions against objectives so remote that the raiders had to land in Africa or Russia rather than return to their home fields. On another occasion, his plane, badly damaged by flak, was obliged to shoot down ten German fighters to make it back for a crash landing on British soil. As his squadron lost men and machines, the high cost of conflict became an increasingly grave concern for Crosby. The author soldiered on, however, and he recalls now the relief he felt when Flying Fortresses began delivering food supplies (not ordnance) to the long-suffering people of liberated countries. In a low-key epilogue, he discloses that, though a regular attendee at his outfit's reunions, he turned actively anti-war during the 1960's. Uncommonly thoughtful recollections that address the moral ambiguities of a great cause without in any way denigrating the selfless valor or camaraderie that helped ennoble it. (Thirty-two pages of b&w photographs--not seen.) -- *Copyright ©1993, Kirkus Associates, LP.*

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## **Users Review**

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#### **Bruce Healy:**

The guide with title A Wing and a Prayer: The "Bloody 100th" Bomb Group of the U.S. Eighth Air Force in Action over Europe in World War II contains a lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of help after read this book. This specific book exist new understanding the information that exist in this book represented the condition of the world now. That is important to yo7u to know how the improvement of the world. This kind of book will bring you with new era of the glowbal growth. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read the idea anywhere you want.

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A lot of people always spent their own free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them loved ones or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent they free time just watching TV, or playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity this is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for yourself. If you enjoy the book you read you can spent the whole day to reading a e-book. The book A Wing and a Prayer: The "Bloody 100th" Bomb Group of the U.S. Eighth Air Force in Action over Europe in World War II it is extremely good to read. There are a lot of those who recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. If you did not have enough space to develop this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book from a smart phone. The price is not to cover but this book possesses high quality.

#### **Everette Murray:**

The book untitled A Wing and a Prayer: The "Bloody 100th" Bomb Group of the U.S. Eighth Air Force in Action over Europe in World War II contain a lot of information on it. The writer explains the woman idea with easy method. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do certainly not worry, you can easy to read that. The book was written by famous author. The author brings you in the new period of time of literary works. You can read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or device, so you can read the book throughout anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can start their official web-site and order it. Have a nice study.

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