

The Youngest Crew

This is an autobiographical story of **Paul Wagner's** three years of military flying in World War II. It culminated in his commanding the youngest crew to fly combat with the U.S. Eighth Air Force in Europe.

"I think this book is particularly unusual among the many descriptions of the air war in Europe. I was the pilot and as such, what I saw of the fighting was whatever happened directly in front of me and to the right and left in a 180-degree arc. In writing the book I used, and often quoted from, the combat diaries of Ellis O'Neal, my flight engineer, Guy Mattana, my ball turret gunner and Doug Mann, my waist gunner.



The use of these diaries allowed me to formulate a narrative of unparalleled accuracy in describing exactly what happened to us. Because of this, I think this is the most accurate description ever published about the experiences of a combat crew in the Eighth Air Force. I have tried to tell it exactly as it was with no exaggeration but in full detail, as I could recall it."

Paul was a 21-year-old 1st Lt. with 4 air medals and 25 missions. He retired from the Los Alamos National Laboratory and is currently living in Albuquerque.



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By
Paul Wagner

The book is a private publication. Contact Cavalcade of Wings, web site for information on obtaining a copy of the book. N