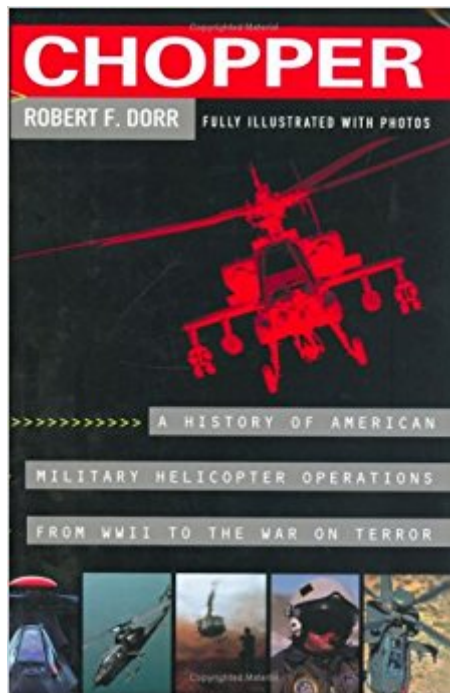




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Chopper: A History Of America Military Helicopter Operators From WWII To The War On Terro



Synopsis

Real-life stories from the pilots and the passengers. From its first use in military operations, during a rescue mission behind enemy lines in 1944, to its crucial role in Vietnam, to the Black Hawk combat helicopters in the current war on terror, the helicopter changed the face of aviation-and the face of warfare. Whether they are bringing supplies and medical help or coming to the rescue of trapped soldiers, the modern battlefield could not function without them.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This history of American helicopters in combat manages to be both readable and comprehensive. Comprehensive because it provides not only narratives of operations but also technical data on the machines used in those operations, from Burma in 1944, where early Sikorskis flew, to contemporary Afghanistan, in which late Sikorskis have figured. Readable because it is a series of narratives by actual helicopter operators charged with, for instance, rescuing British wounded and American liaison pilots in Burma, and moving Special Operations troops in Afghanistan. In between are accounts, always accompanied by illustrations of all the hardware, of medevacs in Korea, the seminal consequences of air mobility in Vietnam, and the successive generations of deadly gunships, ending with the Apaches and SuperCobras now serving in southwest Asia. A model popular military reference. Roland GreenCopyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Compiled by noted historian and aviation expert Robert F. Dorr, Chopper features first-hand

accounts of the helicopter's evolution in times of war. The only oral history of its kind, filled with photographs, it is a handsome volume that will earn a prominent place on the bookshelves of military history readers.

Great book on Military Helicopters and stories of some of the pilots who served their country to fly them!

This is worth reading, though seems quickly and haphazardly done: a random collection of stories told by various military helicopter pilots over several decades of rotary wing combat flying.

Robert Dorr writes the true history of the amazing helicopter and the people who flew them. His painstaking interviews and the facts gathered make this a must reading for anyone who has a friend or family member who flew choppers. Mr. Dorr has made a valuable contribution to the memory of real heroes and their daily struggles between keeping the ship flying and completing the mission. Thanks, Bob, for using your skills for the benefit of so many.

My friend likes this book. he was surprised . These books were mailed to me.. were supposed to go to my friend. Took extra postage to straighten it all out but. All is good now.

Author Bob Dorr has a passion for military aircraft, and that passion is evident in his most recent book, "Chopper." The book, as promised in its subtitle, takes the reader from the earliest relatively primitive "eggbeaters" in Burma during World War II, through Korea, Vietnam, and up to today's advanced helicopters now active in Iraq. As usual, Bob has impeccably researched his subject, not only by pursuit of the existing written word, but through extensive interviews and actual flights in some of the ships. There are two sets of heroes in this work. First of all are the helicopters which have proved themselves invaluable on the battle field, as observation platforms, as medical evacuation workhorses, as troop transports, as gun platforms. The author places useful sidebars providing technical information about each of the helicopters he discusses. Some helicopters were truly heroic birds - keeping in the air no matter how much incoming ordinance they received. But it is the other set of heroes that make this book fascinating to the general reader. These are the human heroes, the pilots and crews of helicopters fighting in many theaters. Bob Dorr conducted seventy seven interviews with these incredible men, and accurately records their accounts of helicopter missions. All retain the actual words of the aviators. Some accounts are thoughtful, almost

philosophical; accounts by more recent aviators are less so, some sounding a little like teenagers discussing their newest video game. But all demonstrate the skill and valor of men fighting in the nation's uniform. Some missions are described alternately by several actors, each from a different view point. The author helps the reader keep up with these transitions by useful "Who's Who" sidebars. If I were to fault the book in any way, it is to note the absence of a Table of Contents. The publisher was unhelpful by deleting the Table that the author had submitted with his manuscript. I recommend this book not only to those with specific interest in helicopters, but also to the general reader who will be interested in, and educated by, the first person accounts of the adventure, adrenalin and dangers of military aviation.

This book is wonderful. I did not know that the Germans were the first to use helicopters in combat in WW2 and not the Americans! Now I know this as a fact! And it is amazing that they flew public demonstrations of helicopters even before 1938, setting speed and altitude records! What amazing craft such as the Fi-155, Fi-61, Fi-223, Fi-265, Fi-282 all flying years before Sikorsky! And we here in America always assume when someone says "the first american to do something" it means the first person in the world to do something. How amazing to find out that the Germans had operational combat choppers performing air-sea-rescues and submarine spotting in the Baltic before Sikorsky's craft had ever left the ground. We in America are always so eager to claim we were the first at everything when after a little investigation it is so easy to find out that our common perceptions of History are mostly wrong. How wonderful that this book clears up those kinds of misconceptions and sets the record straight, showing that the Burma rescue of 1944 came years after German helicopter rescues at sea. Wonderful to discover that air mobile operations and combat troop transport and transport of artillery and ammunition was carried out from huge twin rotor Focke Achgellis 223 choppers. They even airlifted whole airframes of downed fighter craft and heli airlifted a broken down Fieseler Storch observation plane back to base, something we couldn't do until post war. They even airlifted light trucks by helicopter. We always assume we were the first but we should know better. But hang on, are all these facts actually mentioned in this book at all, or am I getting confused with Steve Coates' book "Helicopter of the Third Reich"? Perhaps here again an American book about the American military is oblivious to the rest of the world and the priority of foreign achievements. If it didn't happen in America it didn't happen right? Read this book with awareness of those sorts of biases.

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