2nd Tactical Air Force, Vol. 2: Breakout to Bodenplatte, July 1944 to January 1945

Superb History For Fans Of Royal Air Force Or Ground Attack

It has been more than 30 years since the original and highly acclaimed history of 2nd Tactical Air Force was first published, and it has been long out of print. Now at last, this book is a completely rewritten and greatly expanded account of this important command's vital contribution to the Invasion of Normandy and the defeat of the forces of the Third Reich in Western Europe. The 2nd TAF, equipped with rocket- and bomb-carrying Typhoons, Tempests, Spitfires, Mosquitos, Mustangs and medium bombers, flew ground-attack and tank-busting missions in support of Montgomery's 21st Army Group as it advanced through Normandy and northwest Europe in 1944-45. The medium bomber units struck at enemy transport, ammunition dumps, and communication targets. The 2nd TAF comprised British, Canadian, Polish, Czech, Norwegian, French, South African, Australian, and New Zealand crews. This second volume covers the breakout from Normandy, the advance across the Low Countries, and the German ripostes in the Ardennes and Operation Bodenplatte in the winter that followed.

My Personal Review:
This is volume 2 in a three volume set on the 2nd Tactical Air Force, which was so important in supporting Allied ground advances following the Normandy invasion in ground attack. These are large volumes with a quality binding and excellent artwork, which one comes to expect from Classic Publications. Though the price is hefty, especially for all three volumes, the coverage is excellent, including unusual color profiles, detailed coverage of Tempests, Typhoons, Spitfires, and Mustangs. Sections on Tank Busters or Morale Busters and Who Got Rommel are particularly interesting. Although there are excellent details on maps and airfields and daily losses, readers of the other two volumes will miss the solid order of battle information present in volumes 1 and 3. Readers of the Osprey aircraft series will find new information here and a wonderful level of detail.