Wings of Morning: The Story of the Last American Bomber Shot Down over Germany in World War II by Thomas Childers

What It Must Of Been Like....

An unforgettable story of war, tragedy, and a family's quest for truth, Wings of Morning seeks to determine what really happened to the crew of the Black Cat, a B-24 that set off on a mission in April of 1945--and never returned. Photos.

My Personal Review:
Having heard all of Dr. Childers excellent audio courses available from the Teaching Company, I had very high expectations for this book. I was not disappointed; Wings of Morning is an exceptional book that details the wartime experiences of a B-24 bomber crew from their initial induction and training, to their deployment to England as part of the 8th Air Force, through their fateful final mission in the closing days of World War II. A final mission, incidentally, that the reader can not help but conclude should have never been flown.

Based on hundreds of crewmember letters home, Wings of Morning provides insights that go far beyond the usual combat narrative. The combat experience is here to be sure, but so is the training, off-duty hours, weekend leaves, camaraderie, devotion to duty, exhilaration, boredom, bravery, fear, hope for the future, and the families back home. This book, more than any I've ever read, gave me an appreciation for the near constant tension that these men must have felt. I repeatedly found myself asking what I would have done in similar situations and realizing anew why those who fought World War II are rightly called the Greatest Generation. Wings of Morning does not end with the loss of a B-24 crew over Regensburg, Germany, in April of 1945 nor with the War Department notifications to the families waiting at home. Professor Childers uncle was a crew member on that tragic flight and the final chapters of this
extraordinary book detail his quest to reconstruct the final mission of a B-24 known as the Black Cat. I've read and own many good books about World War II but none has had the impact of Wings of Morning. Thank you, Dr. Childers, for this insightful and thought provoking work...

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