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A PRELIMINARY LIST OF  
U.S. AIR FORCE ACES  
1917 - 1953

SCANNED BY ISA

00467662

USAF HISTORICAL STUDY NO. 73

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A PRELIMINARY LIST OF  
 U.S. AIR FORCE ACES  
 1917-1953

DO NOT LOAN



USAF Historical Division  
 Research Studies Institute  
 Air University  
 January 1962

0467662

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PREFACE

Responsibility for historical matters pertaining to aces\* was assigned to the USAF Historical Division by Headquarters, United States Air Force on 5 June 1957. In keeping with that responsibility, the Division established Project ACE in May 1959 for the compilation of a list of the aces of the U.S. Air Force, 1917-1953. An official list of World War I victory credits had been published by the Air Service in 1920, and an official list of Korean War aces had been issued by the Department of the Air Force in 1957. No comparable materials were available, however, for World War II. Several persons and agencies had prepared lists of World War II aces, but, as might be expected, these lists differed in important respects. Further, in some cases it was impossible to discover what sources and methods had been used in developing those lists; in those instances where sources and methods were known or could be learned from the lists themselves, it appeared that some important materials may not have been consulted. The major task before the USAF Historical Division, therefore, was the preparation of a list of World War II aces.

This pamphlet is a preliminary report on Project ACE. Readers should be clearly aware of the significance of the indefinite article used in the title, A List of U.S. Air Force Aces, 1917-1953, for the pamphlet is not the list of Air Force aces but only a list, developed in accordance with limitations imposed by criteria set forth later on in the body of this pamphlet. Employment of different criteria would, of course, have resulted in a different list.

One of the reasons for issuing this preliminary report at this time is to solicit assistance in obtaining materials for use in preparing a final report for publication in the near future. The USAF Historical Division has put forth every effort to make this preliminary pamphlet as complete and accurate as possible. The listing, however, is subject to revision, by addition or deletion of names, or by changes in scores, as may be appropriate in the light of further research and additional data. Persons who possess documents that seem to suggest such changes are encouraged and urged to forward those materials to the Division. All documents should be submitted in the form of copies that may be retained

\* Here, and throughout this pamphlet, the word "ace" is used informally and unofficially. As indicated in the Introduction, which follows, the designation "ace" has no official status in the U.S. Air Force.

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by the Division for evaluation in relationship to other documentary materials and to the criteria adopted for the purposes of this project. Detailed citations to, or descriptions of, the appropriate materials may be submitted if the documents themselves are not available. The Division also will appreciate receiving information concerning any names that may be misspelled. All correspondence pertaining to this pamphlet should be addressed to RSI (HS), Maxwell AFB, Ala.

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When Dr. Albert F. Simpson, Chief of the USAF Historical Division, established Project ACE in 1959, he assigned it to the Historical Studies Branch under the supervision of Dr. Maurer Maurer. Mr. Wesley P. Newton, Jr., was employed to conduct the research with regard to World War II. Typing and clerical services were provided by Mrs. Lois L. Lynn. Miss Marguerite Kennedy, Chief of the Division's Archives Branch, and the members of her staff provided valuable help. Miss Sara E. Venable typed the final copy for publication.

The USAF Historical Division gratefully acknowledges the assistance it has received from the many persons who contributed information for the project. The research that had been accomplished by various persons, and especially the work of Colonel Raymond F. Toliver, Lieutenant Colonel George C. Bales, Lieutenant Colonel Falk Harmel, Major Gene Guerny, and personnel of the Military Personnel Records Center at St. Louis, proved to be of great assistance. A special word of thanks is due to the staffs of the Military Personnel Records Center at St. Louis and the Federal Records Center at Kansas City for locating and making available important collections of documents for research.

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## INTRODUCTION

Some of the most famous names in the history of the U. S. Air Force are those of the aces. Rickenbacker, Luke, Bong, McGuire, McConnell, Jabara--these men, and the many others who have won five or more victories in combat, have proudly claimed the title. By their exploits they have generated millions of words of copy for newspapers, magazines, and books. They have been applauded and feted, and acclaimed as heroes, by the public. But from the Air Force they have no special reward, not even a medal, a ribbon, or a badge to signify that they are aces. In fact, in the U. S. Air Force the designation "ace" has no official status.

Air Force Policy

The title "ace" came into use early in World War I and was won by Lufbery and other Americans who fought for France before the U. S. Air Service entered combat. It was bestowed informally on members of the aero squadrons sent overseas with the American Expeditionary Forces. Most of the AEF members who became aces were pursuit pilots, for the men of the bombardment and observation units naturally had fewer opportunities to attack the enemy in the air. Since the U. S. Air Service did not want "to glorify one particular branch of aeronautics, aviation, or aerostation at the expense of another," it decided against using "the title 'Ace' in referring to those who are credited officially with five or more victories over enemy aircraft."\*

The policy adopted by the Air Service was retained by the Air Corps, Army Air Forces, and United States Air Force. It was in effect during World War II and the Korean War, and it is in effect at the present time. In other words, so far as the Air Force is concerned, there are no aces.

Nevertheless, people persist in using the title, and the Air Force never has prohibited, or even discouraged, the informal and unofficial use of the title within its own organization. The word "ace" appears frequently in official documents; Air Force Regulation 190-25, for example, requires the preparation of biographies of "fighter aces." The use of the title "ace" actually has been encouraged by the practice of

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\* Ltr., Director of Air Service, 5 January 1920, quoted in Air Service Information Circular (Heavier-than-Air), Vol. I, No. 7 (9 February 1920).

awarding official credit to individuals for the destruction of enemy aircraft. In the light of Air Force policy it is evident, however, that official credit for the destruction of five enemy aircraft does not carry with it official status as an ace.

### The Problem of Defining "Ace"

Since the title has not received official recognition, there has been no reason for the Air Force to draw up a formal and official definition of "ace." Webster's New International Dictionary (1961) indicates that the word refers to "a person who excels at something." Early in the First World War the French applied the term in that broad sense to military pilots who had distinguished themselves by the exceptional skill they had exhibited or by the remarkable feats they had performed. Soon, however, the word began to acquire a more specialized meaning, being applied to those knights of the air who on five or more occasions had met and defeated the enemy in aerial combat. The word was defined in those terms in a book written by America's top ace of the First World War. In the glossary to Fighting the Flying Circus, (Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York, 1919), Captain Edward V. Rickenbacker described an ace as "A fighting pilot who has brought down five enemy machines." That definition agrees in a general way with those found in standard reference works. Webster, for example, says that the word "ace" is applied in particular to "an airplane combat pilot who has brought down at least five enemy airplanes," and The New Century Dictionary of the English Language (1948) says the word refers especially to "a combat aviator who has brought down five or more enemy machines." The United States Air Force Dictionary, edited by Dr. Woodford Agee Heflin (1956), says an "ace" is "an expert combat pilot; specif., one credited with not less than five victories."

While the definition offered by Dr. Heflin is cast in modern terms, the others obviously were formulated during the period in which the word "ace" was entering the language of military aviation. At first glance it may seem that the variations in the wording of the different statements are of little significance and that there are no important conflicts among these definitions. Some questions probably will arise, however, if the definitions are examined more carefully. It may appear that they are not so precise as might be desirable. The language seems to be open to great variations of interpretation; consequently, there is a possibility of disagreement as to what the proper interpretation should be.

On four important points there probably will be no disagreement. First, to merit the title "ace," a man must have gained at least five



victories. The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary (1933) gives the number three, and some sources dating from early in World War I use other numbers. The figure "five," however, has gained general acceptance and has become firmly established. Second, the enemy craft must have been destroyed in order for a victory to be scored. Enemy craft probably destroyed, possibly destroyed, or merely damaged are not counted. Third, the craft destroyed must have belonged to the enemy, for no honor can attach to the destruction of friendly or neutral craft. Fourth, a person's claim of the destruction of an enemy craft must be confirmed by some means or other in order for the person to receive credit for a victory.

Some disagreement may arise, however, when an effort is made to identify the type or types of persons who may be eligible for the title "ace." In the definitions quoted, is "aviator" synonymous with "pilot"? Do the words "airplane combat pilot" have exactly the same meaning as "fighting pilot"? Does "pilot" refer to pilots of all kinds of combat aircraft or to pilots of a particular kind? To identify an ace as a pilot of a fighter (or, earlier, pursuit) plane imposes a limitation that is not acceptable to everyone, for a pilot who is a member of an organization using fighter-type aircraft that have been modified for reconnaissance may engage the enemy under conditions similar to those in which a fighter pilot operates. Some people argue, therefore, that the definition should be broad enough to include reconnaissance as well as fighter pilots.

Some people go farther, asserting that the word "pilot" is inappropriate in a definition of "ace" because it eliminates other persons, notably gunners, who have received official credit for the destruction of enemy aircraft. They maintain that the title "ace" should be applied to both pilots and gunners, for no matter who is responsible for the destruction of an enemy aircraft the result--not considering the loss of enemy personnel--is the same: the enemy's air power is reduced by one aircraft. On the other hand it is argued that the gunner, unlike the pilot of a fighter or reconnaissance plane, has almost no control over the conditions of the engagement. The fighter pilot may have considerable freedom of decision as to whether he will attack and, once engaged, whether he will continue the action. The gunner cannot bring his plane into contact with the enemy but must wait until forces beyond his control bring the enemy craft within his sights; further, he cannot evade or withdraw if he should deem such action necessary or desirable.

The definitions mentioned above indicate that aceship is won in actions against "machines" or "planes." These terms can perhaps be translated to read "aircraft," which often is construed to mean vehicles that are manned, have fixed wings, and are driven through the air by their

own power plants. If this interpretation is accepted, then the observation balloons destroyed during the First World War and the buzz bombs destroyed during the Second would not count toward acesdom. This interpretation would also rule out dirigibles, helicopters, gliders, and space craft. Should the definition be broad enough to include all kinds of military craft capable of operating in the earth's atmosphere or--looking to the future--in outer space? Even such an expansion might leave the definition too narrow to suit everyone. During World War II pilots who shot up German railway engines in France wanted to be called "aces"--"Loco Aces."

If the references to victories, or to planes or machines "brought down," imply aerial combat, then the destruction of an unarmed plane, or of a buzz bomb that though armed cannot fight back if attacked, could not be counted toward acesdom. To base the definition of "ace" upon a concept of aerial combat also would mean that airborne craft destroyed by fire from the ground could not be counted. In other words, credits toward acesdom could not be given to persons who, like ground members of balloon companies in World War I, knocked enemy aircraft out of the sky by firing from the ground. The words "brought down" eliminate aircraft destroyed on the ground by strafing or bombing--which some people want to count in computing victory credits. These people point out that the loss of aircraft on the ground has the same effect on the enemy's air power as if the craft had been destroyed in the air; moreover, the dangers involved in an attack upon aircraft on the ground may be as great, and at times even greater, than the dangers of aerial combat. Other persons argue that the definition of "ace" should not be tied to the degree of danger involved or to the effect on the enemy's air power, and they insist that the definition be based strictly on the concept of air-to-air combat.

Because of the very nature of the combat, it often is difficult to determine whether or not the enemy craft was in fact destroyed. The word of the claimant has never been accepted as sufficient evidence to establish a victory credit. Some kind of confirmation, by a witness, by photography, or by other means, is necessary. Unfortunately, people do not always agree on the significance, validity, or sufficiency of the evidence pertaining to any particular claim. It seems clear, as the policy statement of the Director of Air Service in 1920 appears to imply, that some special action must be taken to give official status to a victory credit. The evidence must be accepted and a credit must be awarded by competent authority before a victory can be regarded as official. This means that a man's score depends upon how many victories were officially credited to him, and not upon the number of enemy aircraft he may actually have destroyed. After examining records relating to hundreds of cases, the USAF Historical Division has concluded that in most instances it is impossible to determine how many enemy aircraft a person actually

did destroy in aerial combat.\*

In determining an individual's score it would seem that all of the victories officially credited to that person should be taken into consideration. For some purposes, however, it may be necessary to take into account a person's military affiliation at the time any particular victory was gained. Some people hold that a list of the aces of the Air Force should include only those Air Force persons who were officially credited with five or more victories gained while on duty with the Air Force. Others would expand this to include victories won by: (1) U.S. Air Force personnel who were attached to other U.S. services or to foreign organizations (as in the case of a member of the U.S. Army Air Forces attached to the Royal Air Force); (2) persons who at one time or another were members of the U.S. Air Force but who won the victories in question while members of other services, either U. S. or foreign (as in the case of Raoul Lufbery, who won all his victory credits while in the service of France and before he became a member of the U. S. Air Service); (3) persons who were members of other services, either U.S. or foreign, but who at the time were attached to and serving with the U. S. Air Force (as in the case of John F. Bolt, a Marine Corps pilot who was credited by the U. S. Air Force with six victories while serving with Far East Air Forces during the Korean War). Whether or not these, and similar victories, are taken into account in drawing up a list of U. S. Air Force aces depends upon which of the points of view set forth above is adopted.

As if all of the problems mentioned above were not enough, any attempt to compile a list of the aces of the Air Force also must reckon with the fact that, as will be noted later, the procedures for awarding and recording victory credits have not been uniform throughout the history of the service. Because of the great variations in the procedures which have been used, the USAF Historical Division has concluded that it cannot define "ace" in terms that would be appropriate to all three wars in which the Air Force has been engaged. Hence, each of the three wars involving the use of air power--World War I, World War II, and the Korean War--will be considered separately.

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\* For a case study, see Maurer Maurer, "Another Victory for Rickenbacker," The Airpower Historian, VII (April 1960), 117-124.

## WORLD WAR I

During World War I victory credits were awarded to members of the U.S. Air Service in accordance with a set of rules issued by General Pershing's headquarters.\* Credit was granted if, as a result of aerial combat, enemy aircraft fell or landed behind the Allied line or crashed in enemy territory. Credit was not given for enemy aircraft that made normal landings after being forced down behind their own line. Aircraft included balloons as well as airplanes, and both were counted for victory credits. In practice, credit was given for balloons destroyed either in the air or on the ground, although the formal rules did not specifically cover the latter. If two or more aviators (including observers and gunners as well as pilots) took part in a combat that resulted in an enemy aircraft being destroyed or forced down, each was credited with one victory.

In order to obtain credit for a victory, the aviator had to file a claim. If he had not seen the final result of his attack on the enemy, he requested confirmation, hoping someone would come forth with the necessary evidence. In any event, written confirmation was required from one or more competent observers who had witnessed the combat from the air or from the ground and had seen the results, or had seen the debris of the enemy aircraft at the place reported by the claimant. Something more than confirmation by a competent witness was required, however, if a victory was to attain official status. It had to be recognized by the proper American or Allied authorities. Credits for victories that attained such recognition were awarded by means of general orders published by the appropriate U.S or Allied army headquarters.

An official list of those persons who had received victory credits during World War I was published by the Air Service in 1920, revised by the Air Corps in 1931, and amended by order of the Secretary of the Air Force in 1960.† That list, which shows the number of victories credited to each man, includes victories won by members of the U.S. Air Service while attached to British, French, or Italian organizations for duty but

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\* General Headquarters, American Expeditionary Forces, Bulletin No. 76, 8 October 1918. This bulletin provided a formal statement of rules already in use.

† Air Service Information Circular (Heavier-than-Air), Vol. I, No. 7 (9 February 1920); Ibid., Revised (22 July 1931); Memo for Chief of Staff, by Secretary of the Air Force, subj: Rickenbacker, Edward V., 20 January 1960.

does not list victories gained by Americans while in the service of foreign nations. The United States Air Force holds this list, as revised and amended, to be the authoritative statement of victory credits for the U. S. Air Service of World War I. The persons listed therein as having been credited individually with a total of five or more victories have customarily been regarded as aces of the U. S. Air Service.

ACES OF WORLD WAR I

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u> *	<u>Sq.</u> †	<u>Airplanes</u>	<u>Balloons</u>	<u>Total</u>
Badham, William T.	1st Lt.	91	5	0	5
Baer, Paul F.	1st Lt.	103	9	0	9
Bair, Hilbert L.	1st Lt.	††	5	0	5
Beane, James D.	1st Lt.	22	6	0	6
Biddle, Charles J.	Maj.	13	7	0	7
Bissell, Clayton L.	Capt.	148	5	0	5
Brooks, Arthur R.	Capt.	139	6	0	6
Buckley, Harold R.	Capt.	95	4	1	5
Burdick, Howard	1st Lt.	17	7	0	7
Campbell, Douglas	Capt.	94	6	0	6
Cassady, Thomas G.	Capt.	28	9	0	9
Chambers, Reed M.	Maj.	94	6	1	7
Clay, Henry R., Jr.	1st Lt.	148	8	0	8
Cook, Everett R.	Capt.	91	5	0	5
Cook, H. Wier	Capt.	94	3	4	7
Coolidge, Hamilton	Capt.	94	5	3	8
Creech, Jesse O.	1st Lt.	148	8	0	8
Curtiss, Edward P.	Capt.	95	6	0	6
Donaldson, John Owen	Capt.	††	8	0	8
Easterbrook, Arthur E.	1st Lt.	1	6	0	6
Erwin, William P.	1st Lt.	1	8	0	8
Furlow, George W.	1st Lt.	103	5	0	5
George, Harold H.	1st Lt.	139	5	0	5
Gray, Charles G.	Capt.	213	4	1	5
Guthrie, Murray K.	1st Lt.	13	6	0	6
Haight, Edward M.	1st Lt.	139	5	0	5
Hamilton, Lloyd A.	1st Lt.	17	6	3	9

\* As given in the official listing. Presumably the last rank held during the war.

† As given in the official listing. Presumably the assignment or attachment at the time the last victory was credited.

†† Attached to Royal Air Force.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Sq.</u>	<u>Airplanes</u>	<u>Balloons</u>	<u>Total</u>
Hammond, Leonard C.	Capt.	91	6	0	6
Hayes, Frank K.	1st Lt.	13	6	0	6
Healy, James A.	Capt.	147	5	0	5
Holden, Lansing C.	1st Lt.	95	2	5	7
Hunter, Frank O'D.	1st Lt.	103	8	0	8
Jones, Clinton	2d Lt.	22	8	0	8
Kindley, Field E.	Capt.	148	12	0	12
Knotts, Howard C.	2d Lt.	17	6	0	6
Knowles, James	1st Lt.	95	5	0	5
Landis, Reed G.	Capt.	25	9	1	10
Larner, G. DeFreest	Capt.	103	7	0	7
Lindsay, Robert O.	1st Lt.	139	6	0	6
Luff, Frederick E.	1st Lt.	25	3	2	5
Luke, Frank	2d Lt.	27	4	14	18
McArthur, John K.	2d Lt.	27	6	0	6
Meissner, James A.	Maj.	94	7	1	8
O'Neill, Ralph A.	1st Lt.	147	5	0	5
Owens, J. Sidney	2d Lt.	139	5	0	5
Ponder, William T.	1st Lt.	103	6	0	6
Porter, Kenneth L.	2d Lt.	147	6	0	6
Putnam, David E.	1st Lt.	139	10	0	10
Ralston, Orville A.	1st Lt.	148	5	0	5
Rickenbacker, Edward V.	Capt.	94	22	4	26
Robertson, Wendel A.	1st Lt.	139	7	0	7
Rummel, Leslie J.	1st Lt.	93	7	0	7
Schoen, Karl J.	1st Lt.	139	7	0	7
Seerley, John J.	1st Lt.	13	5	0	5
Sewall, Sumner	Capt.	95	5	2	7
Springs, Elliott W.	Capt.	148	12	0	12
Stenseth, Martinus	Capt.	28	6	0	6
Stovall, William H.	1st Lt.	13	7	0	7
Strahm, Victor H.	Maj.	91	5	0	5
Swaab, Jacques M.	Capt.	22	10	0	10
Tobin, Edgar G.	Capt.	103	6	0	6
Todd, Robert M.	2d Lt.	17	4	1	5
Vasconcelles, Jerry C.	Capt.	27	5	1	6
Vaughn, George A.	1st Lt.	17	12	1	13
Vernam, Remington De B.	1st Lt.	22	3	3	6
Wehner, Joseph Fritz	1st Lt.	27	0	5	5
White, Wilbur Wallace	1st Lt.	147	7	1	8
Williams, Rodney D.	1st Lt.	17	4	1	5
Wright, Chester E.	1st Lt.	93	8	1	9

Ten or More Victories

<u>Name</u>	<u>Airplanes</u>	<u>Balloons</u>	<u>Total</u>
Rickenbacker, Edward V.	22	4	26
Luke, Frank	4	14	18
Vaughn, George A.	12	1	13
Kindley, Field E.	12	0	12
Springs, Elliott W.	12	0	12
Landis, Reed G.	9	1	10
Putnam, David E.	10	0	10
Swaab, Jacques M.	10	0	10

WORLD WAR II

There is no official list of victory credits for the Second World War that is comparable to the list published for the First. Furthermore, there was no single set of rules governing awards of victory credits in all the regions in which the Army Air Forces was in combat. Each theater or air force was free to develop its own system. As a result the rules varied greatly from one area to another, and even from time to time within a given area. Such uniformity as did exist was more the result of accident than of design.

In each combat area an effort was made to give recognition to pilots of single-place fighter and reconnaissance planes for all the victories they won in air-to-air combat. Credits also were given to fighter and reconnaissance pilots for aircraft destroyed on the ground, and to crew members of multi-place bomber, reconnaissance, and night fighter planes for the enemy craft they shot down. An effort, however, was not made in all combat areas to award credits for all planes destroyed on the ground, or for all planes shot down by members of bomber, reconnaissance, and night fighter crews.

Three different methods were employed, at various times and places, to award credits in cases where the destruction of enemy aircraft was the result of the efforts of two or more persons: (1) The credit was given to the person primarily responsible; (2) the credit was divided among all the persons involved, with each receiving an equal fraction, which in some cases was as little as one-fifth of a credit; or (3) one whole credit was given to each person contributing to the victory, with some organizations going so far as to give each of the nine or ten members of a heavy-bomber crew one credit if a gunner in the crew succeeded in shooting down an enemy plane.

In some fighter groups the operations officer issued certificates giving the group's pilots credit for the enemy craft they destroyed. The Fifth Air Force published a series of general orders to award victory credits and list cumulative scores for individuals. This latter method was adopted by Thirteenth Air Force in 1944. The Eighth and Ninth Air Forces established victory credit boards to receive the claims of fighter and reconnaissance pilots, evaluate evidence, and award credits. Such credits were recorded in the reports of the various boards, and after the war VIII Fighter Command went one step farther and prepared a final tabulation of the credits that had been awarded by boards of Eighth Air Force.



In all combat areas of World War II it was customary to give decorations to individuals for victories or for actions which had resulted in the destruction of enemy aircraft. Such awards were made by means of general orders issued by the appropriate headquarters. Generally speaking, the destruction of an enemy plane in air-to-air combat automatically made a fighter or reconnaissance pilot eligible for consideration for an Air Medal (or appropriate cluster to the medal); when he had gained several victories (usually five) he was automatically considered for a Distinguished Flying Cross. In many instances the destruction of enemy craft was mentioned only incidentally in the citation describing the action for which the decoration was bestowed. In other cases the order stated that the decoration was awarded specifically, and solely, for the destruction of one or more enemy aircraft. Such evidence of official credit is particularly important where more direct evidence, such as the reports of victory credit boards, is lacking. Some difficult problems arise, however, when orders relating to decorations are used as sources of data for victory credits.

There are numerous instances in which some particular victory was credited or mentioned in more than one general order relating to decorations. A pilot sometimes was given two Air Medals (or rather, a medal and a cluster), usually by different organizations, for the destruction of a single enemy plane. A victory already covered by an Air Medal sometimes was mentioned in a citation for a Distinguished Flying Cross, or other decoration, awarded for the action in which the victory had been gained. Or on occasion a pilot, after having been awarded five Air Medals for destroying five enemy planes, was given a Distinguished Flying Cross for having destroyed these same five aircraft. On the other hand, there were some cases in which men did not receive the decorations they seemed to deserve for the victories they had won.

The general orders pertaining to decorations frequently are in disagreement with other sources of information on victory credits. The victories mentioned in citations for decorations awarded to personnel of Ninth Air Force, for example, do not coincide in every instance with those recorded in the reports of the Ninth Air Force victory credit boards. Similar discrepancies appear in documents of other organizations.

In dealing with victory credits, particularly those of World War II, there often is a question as to what officer or agency had authority to award official credits in a certain area of operations and during a specific period of time. A victory credited by one organization may not have been accorded recognition by some superior organization. A group operations officer, for example, may have certified that a certain pilot destroyed an enemy aircraft, but headquarters at wing or some higher echelon may

have decided (for whatever reason) that the pilot was not entitled to the credit. Consequently, the victories mentioned in histories of squadrons and groups frequently do not match those that were recorded at higher headquarters; and the victories claimed by an individual, or those recorded in his personnel (201) file, sometimes do not match his official credits.

The preceding paragraphs suggest some of the factors that the USAF Historical Division had to take into consideration as it set out to develop a list of World War II aces. After careful study, the Division decided that in compiling the list it would count only those victories which pilots had gained in aerial combat. This decision was dictated by the ways in which credits were awarded. As noted earlier, organizations in all theaters attempted to award credits to pilots for all the planes they destroyed in the air, but similar efforts were not made in all theaters to award credits for planes that pilots destroyed on the ground or that gunners destroyed in the air. In the interest of uniformity, and out of fairness to those pilots who did not receive credits for the planes they destroyed by strafing or dive bombing, the Division confined its tabulation to credits awarded for victories that pilots gained in air-to-air combat.

For World War II, therefore, the USAF Historical Division endeavored to count each victory that (1) was gained by the pilot of a single-place fighter or reconnaissance plane while he was a member of the Army Air Forces and while he was serving with an AAF organization; (2) was won in air-to-air action against an enemy plane that was manned and armed, or that normally could be expected to be manned and armed; and (3) was awarded, recorded, or mentioned in the best official source available for data pertaining to the specific credit under consideration.\* These are the criteria that were employed in developing the list which follows.

Research in accordance with these criteria produced a substantial number of names that had not appeared previously on lists of World War II aces. It also resulted in larger scores than had been attributed to some persons. On the other hand, in some cases it resulted in lower scores or the omission of the names of persons who hitherto had been regarded as aces. The purpose was not to find as many--or as few--aces as possible. Instead the major objective was to record for each and every person all the credits--no more, no less--that had been officially awarded to him.

The USAF Historical Division realizes the desirability of including information concerning the rank of the men on the list of aces. In fact, such information was noted when it was discovered during research on

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\* See the Bibliographical Note for information concerning the sources used.

victory credits. However, because of the large number of names involved, and because of the numerous changes in rank, the Division found that a vast amount of additional research would be required in order to establish the rank each pilot held when he won his last victory, or when the war ended, or in accordance with some other plan. Having neither the personnel nor the funds for this research, the Division has been forced to omit data on rank from the World War II list.

Limitations of funds and personnel also have made it impossible for the Division to conduct the additional research that would be required to show the pilots' assignments by groups or squadrons. The list which follows, however, indicates the air force or forces in which each pilot gained his victories.

ACES OF WORLD WAR II

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Abernathy, R. W.	8	5.00
Adams, Burnell W.	5	7.00
Adams, Charles E., Jr.	15	6.00
Adams, F. E.	8	9.50
Adams, Robert H.	5	5.00
Ainlay, John M.	12-15	8.00
Alison, John R.	10-14	8.00
Allen, Calvin D., Jr.	15	7.00
Allen, David W.	5	8.00
Allen, W. H.	8	5.00
Ambort, Ernest J.	5	5.00
Ammon, R. H.	8	5.00
Amoss, D. M.	8	5.50
Andersen, Leslie E.	12-15	5.00
Anderson, C. E., Jr.	8	16.25
Anderson, C. F.	8	10.50
Anderson, Richard H.	7	5.00
Anderson, William Y.	9	7.00
Anderson, Wyman D.	9	6.00
Andrew, Stephen W.	5-8	9.00
Andrews, Stanley O.	5	6.00
Arasmith, Lester L.	14	5.00
Aron, William E.	15	5.00
Aschenbrener, Robert W.	5	10.00
Baccus, D. A.	8	5.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Bade, Jack A.	13	5.00
Baker, Ellis C., Jr.	5	6.00
Bank, R. M.	8	5.00
Bankey, E. E., Jr.	8	9.50
Banks, William M.	5	9.00
Barkey, Robert M.	15	5.00
Barnes, Truman S.	13	5.00
Baseler, Robert L.	12-15	6.00
Baumler, Albert J.	10	5.00
Bearden, Aaron L.	10	5.00
Beavers, E. H., Jr.	8	5.00
Becker, R. H.	8	7.00
Beckham, W. C.	8	18.00
Beerbower, Don M.	9	15.50
Beeson, D. W.	8	19.33
Benne, Louis	15	5.00
Bennett, J. H.	8	6.50
Benz, Walter G., Jr.	5	8.00
Beyer, W. R.	8	9.00
Bickel, Carl G.	9	5.50
Biel, H. T.	8	5.33
Bille, H. S.	8	6.00
Blair, Samuel V.	5	7.00
Blakeslee, D. J. M.	8-9-8	12.50
Blickenstaff, W. K.	8	10.00
Blumer, Laurence E.	9	6.00
Bochkay, D. H.	8	14.84
Bocquin, V. E.	8	5.00
Boggs, Hampton E.	10	6.00
Bolyard, John W.	14	5.00
Bonebrake, R. R.	8	5.00
Bong, Richard I.	5	40.00
Bonner, Stephen J., Jr.	14	5.00
Booth, R. J.	8	8.00
Bostrom, E. O.	8	5.00
Bostwick, G. E.	8	9.00
Bradley, Jack T.	9	15.00
Bradley, John L.	12	5.00
Brezas, Michael	15	12.00
Broadhead, J. E.	8	10.00
Brooks, James L.	15	13.00
Brown, G. A.	8	5.00
Brown, Harry W.	5	5.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Brown, H. L.	8	6.00
Brown, H. W.	8	17.20
Brown, Jasper R.	14	5.00
Brown, Meade M.	5	6.00
Brown, Q. L.	8	12.34
Brown, Robert H.	15	7.00
Brown, Samuel J.	15	15.00
Browning, J. W.	8	7.00
Brueland, Lowell K.	9	12.50
Bryan, D. S.	8	13.34
Bryan, W. E., Jr.	8	8.50
Buck, George T., Jr.	15	6.00
Burdick, C. D.	8	5.50
Buttke, R. L.	8	5.50
Byrne, Robert J.	9	5.00
Byrnes, Robert C.	13	5.00
Callaway, Raymond L.	14	6.00
Campbell, Richard A.	12	6.00
Candelaria, R. G.	8	6.00
Carder, J. B.	8	5.00
Care, R. C.	8	6.00
Carlson, K. E.	8	6.00
Carpenter, G.	8	13.33
Carr, Bruce W.	9	14.00
Carroll, Walter J., Jr.	15	8.00
Carson, L. K.	8	18.50
Carter, J. R.	8	6.00
Castle, Nial K.	5	5.00
Gesky, C. J.	8	8.50
Ceuleers, G. F.	8	10.50
Champlin, Fredric F.	5	9.00
Chandler, George T.	13	5.00
Chandler, V. E.	8	5.00
Chapman, Philip G.	14	7.00
Chase, Levi R.	12	10.00
Chick, Lewis W., Jr.	15	6.00
Christensen, F. J.	8	21.50
Clark, J. A., Jr.	8	11.50
Cleaveland, Arthur B.	9	5.00
Clinger, Dallas A.	14	5.00
Cloud, Vivian A.	5	5.00
Cochran, Paul R.	12	5.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Coffey, Robert L., Jr.	9	6.00
Collins, Frank J.	12-15	9.00
Collins, W. F.	8	5.00
Collinsworth, J. D.	12	6.00
Colman, Philip E.	14	5.00
Compton, G. B.	8	6.50
Comstock, H. E.	8	5.00
Condon, Henry L.	5	5.00
Conger, P. A.	8	11.50
Cook, W. V.	8	6.00
Cooley, W. C.	8	6.00
Coons, M. M.	8	5.00
Cox, R. L.	8	5.00
Cragg, Edward	5	15.00
Cramer, D. S.	8	7.50
Cranfill, N. K.	8	5.00
Crawford, Ray	12	6.00
Crenshaw, C. J.	8	7.00
Crim, Harry C., Jr.	7FC	6.00
Crombie, W. E., Jr.	8	5.00
Cruikshank, Arthur W., Jr.	10-14	8.00
Cullerton, W. J.	8	6.00
Cummings, Donald M.	12-8	6.50
Cundy, A. C.	8	5.00
Curdes, Louis E.	12-5	9.00
Curtis, Robert C.	12-15	14.00
Curton, Warren D.	5	5.00
Cutler, F. A.	8	8.50
Czarnecki, Edward J.	5	6.00
Dade, L. A., Jr.	8	5.00
Dahl, Perry J.	5	9.00
Dahlberg, Kenneth H.	9	14.00
DalGLISH, James B.	9	9.00
Damstrom, Fernley H.	5	8.00
Daniel, William A.	15	5.00
Daniell, J. S.	8	5.00
Davis, Barrie S.	15	6.00
Davis, C. E.	8	5.00
Davis, George A., Jr.	5	7.00
Davis, G. V.	8	7.50
Day, William C., Jr.	5	5.00
Deakins, Richard S.	15	5.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Dean, Cecil O.	12-15	6.00
Dean, Zach W.	5	7.00
Degraffenreid, Edwin L.	5	6.00
De Haven, Robert M.	5	14.00
Della, George	5	5.00
Dent, Elliott E., Jr.	5	6.00
Dick, Frederick E.	5	5.00
Dikovitsky, Michael	5	5.00
Dillard, William J.	15	6.00
Doersch, G. A.	8	10.50
Donaldson, I. B. Jack	5	5.00
Dorris, Harry W.	15	5.25
Dorsch, Frederick J., Jr.	15	8.00
Douglas, Paul P., Jr.	9	7.00
Dregne, I. H.	8	7.00
Drew, U. L.	8	6.00
Drier, William C.	5	6.00
Dubisher, Francis E.	5	5.00
Dubois, Charles H.	10	5.00
Duffy, J. E., Jr.	8	5.20
Duffy, Richard E.	9	5.00
Duke, Walter F.	10	8.00
Dunaway, John S.	5	7.00
Duncan, G. E.	8	19.00
Dunham, William D.	5	16.00
Dunkin, Richard W.	12-15	9.00
Eagleston, Glenn T.	9	18.50
Eason, Hoyt A.	5	6.00
East, Clyde B.	9	12.00
Eastham, David B.	5	12.00
Edens, B. G.	8	8.00
Edwards, Edward B., Jr.	9	5.50
Egan, J. L., Jr.	8	5.00
Elder, J. L.	8	8.00
Elder, R. A.	8	9.00
Elliott, Vincent T.	5	7.00
Emerson, Warren S.	9	6.00
Emmer, Wallace N.	9	14.00
Emmert, Benjamin H., Jr.	15	6.00
Emmons, Eugene H.	15	9.00
Empey, James W.	15	5.00
England, James J.	10-14	10.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
England, J. B.	8	17.50
Evans, A. J.	8	6.00
Evans, R. W.	8	6.00
Everhart, Lee R.	5	6.00
Fanning, Grover E.	5	9.00
Faxon, Richard D.	12-15	5.00
Feld, Sylvan	12	9.00
Felts, Marion C.	5	5.00
Fenex, James E., Jr.	9-12	5.00
Fiebelkorn, E. C.	8	9.50
Fiedler, Arthur C., Jr.	15	8.00
Fiedler, William F., Jr.	13	5.00
Fields, Virgil C., Jr.	12	5.00
Fischette, Charles R.	12	5.00
Fisher, Edwin O.	9	7.00
Fisher, Rodney W.	12	5.00
Fisk, Harry E.	9	5.00
Fisk, Jack A.	5	7.00
Flack, Nelson D., Jr.	5	5.00
Fleischer, Richard H.	5	6.00
Ford, Claude E.	12-15	5.00
Forster, Joseph M.	5	9.00
Fortier, N. J.	8	5.83
Foulis, William B., Jr.	5	6.00
Fowle, J. M.	8	8.00
Foy, R. W.	8	17.00
Franklin, Dwaine R.	15	7.00
Frantz, Carl M.	9	11.00
Froning, Alfred C.	9-12	6.00
Fryer, E. R.	8	7.00
Gabreski, F. S.	8	31.00
Gailer, F. L.	8	5.50
Gallup, Charles S.	5	6.00
Gallup, K. W.	8	9.00
Gardner, Warner F.	15	5.00
Gardner, William A.	5	8.00
Garrison, V.	8	7.33
Gaunt, Frank L.	13	8.00
Gentile, D. S.	8	19.84
Gerard, F. R.	8	8.00
Gerick, S.	8	5.00



<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Gholson, Grover D.	5	5.00
Gibb, Robert D.	5	5.00
Giroux, William K.	5	10.00
Gladen, Cyrus R.	13	5.00
Gleason, G. W.	8	12.00
Glenn, Maxwell H.	10	8.00
Glover, F. W.	8	10.34
Godfrey, J. T.	8	16.33
Goebel, Robert J.	15	11.00
Goehausen, Walter J., Jr.	15	10.00
Goodnight, Robert E.	9	7.25
Goodson, J. A.	8	15.00
Goss, Edmund R.	10-14	6.00
Gould, N. D.	8	5.00
Graham, G. M.	8	7.00
Graham, L. F.	8	5.50
Grant, Marvin E.	5	7.00
Gray, Rockford V.	8-9	6.50
Green, Herschel H.	15	18.00
Gresham, Billy M.	5	6.00
Griffin, Joseph H.	10-14-9	7.00
Griffith, Robert C.	15	5.00
Gross, Clayton K.	9	5.00
Grosshuesch, Leroy V.	5	8.00
Gumm, Charles F., Jr.	9	6.00
Gupton, Cheatham W.	5	5.00
Hagerstrom, James P.	5	6.00
Hall, G. F.	8	6.00
Halton, W. T.	8	11.50
Hammer, Samuel E.	10	5.00
Hampshire, John F., Jr.	10-14	13.00
Hanes, William F., Jr.	15	6.00
Hanna, Harry T.	12	5.00
Hanseman, C. J.	8	5.00
Harmeyer, Raymond F.	12-15	6.00
Harris, Bill	13	16.00
Harris, Ernest A.	5	10.00
Harris, Frederick A.	5	8.00
Harris, T. L.	8	5.00
Hart, C. M.	8	6.00
Hart, Kenneth F.	5	8.00
Hartley, Raymond E., Jr.	15-8	5.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Hatala, P. R.	8	5.50
Hatch, Herbert B., Jr.	15	5.00
Hauver, C. D.	8	5.00
Haviland, F. R., Jr.	8	9.00
Haworth, R. C.	8	5.00
Hayes, T. L., Jr.	8	8.50
Head, Cotesworth B., Jr.	13	12.00
Heller, E. L.	8	5.50
Hendricks, Randall W.	9	5.00
Hennon, William J.	5	7.00
Herbst, John C.	14	15.00
Hill, Allen E.	5	9.00
Hill, David L.	10-14	5.00
Hill, Frank A.	12	7.00
Hill, James E.	9	5.00
Hiro, E. W.	8	5.00
Hively, H. D.	8	12.00
Hnatio, Myron M.	5	5.00
Hockery, J. J.	8	7.00
Hodges, W. R.	8	5.00
Hoefker, John H.	9	8.50
Hofer, R. K.	8	16.50
Hoffman, Cullen J.	15	5.00
Hoffman, James E., Jr.	15	6.50
Hogg, Roy B.	12-15	6.00
Holloway, Bruce K.	10-14	10.00
Holloway, James D.	15	6.00
Holmes, Besby F.	13	5.00
Homer, Cyril F.	5	15.00
Hopkins, W. E.	8	6.00
Horne, F. W.	8	5.50
Hovde, W. J.	8	10.50
Howard, James H.	9	6.00
Howard, Robert L.	5	6.00
Howe, D. W.	8	6.00
Howes, B. H.	8	6.00
Hoyt, Edward R.	5-20	5.00
Hubbard, Mark E.	12-8	5.00
Huff, Lloyd G.	13	6.00
Hunt, Edward E.	9	7.50
Hunter, Alvaro J.	5	5.00
Hurd, Richard F.	12	6.00
Hurlbut, Frank D.	12	9.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Icard, J. W.	8	5.00
Hfrey, Jack M.	12-8	8.00
Ince, James C.	5	6.00
Jackson, M. J.	8	8.00
Jackson, W. O.	8	7.00
Jamison, G. L.	8	7.00
Jeffrey, A. F.	8	14.00
Jenkins, O. D.	8	8.50
Jett, Verl E.	5	7.00
Johnson, Arthur G., Jr.	12-15	8.50
Johnson, Clarence O.	12-8	7.00
Johnson, E. M.	8	5.00
Johnson, Gerald R.	5	22.00
Johnson, G. W.	8	17.00
Johnson, R. S.	8	28.00
Jones, Curran L.	5	5.00
Jones, C. W., Jr.	8	6.00
Jones, F. C.	8	5.00
Jones, John L.	5	8.00
Jones, Lynn F.	10-14	5.00
Jones, Warren L.	15	5.00
Jordan, Wallace R.	5	6.00
Juchheim, A. M.	8	10.00
Julian, W. H.	8	5.00
Karger, D. E.	8	7.50
Karr, Robert A.	15	6.00
Kearby, Neel E.	5	22.00
Keen, R. J.	8	6.00
Kemp, W. T.	8	6.00
Kennedy, Daniel	12	5.00
Kienholz, Donald D.	12-15	6.00
King, Benjamin H.	13-8	7.00
King, Charles W.	5	5.00
King, David L.	9	5.00
King, William B.	9	5.50
Kinnard, C. H., Jr.	8	8.00
Kinsey, Claude R., Jr.	12	7.00
Kirby, Marion F.	5	5.00
Kirkland, Lenton F., Jr.	9	5.00
Kirla, J. A.	8	11.50
Kiser, George E.	5	9.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Klibbe, F. W.	8	7.00
Knapp, Robert H.	5	5.00
Knott, Carroll S.	12	5.00
Koenig, Charles W.	9	6.50
Koraleski, W. J., Jr.	8	5.54
Kruzel, Joseph J.	5-8	5.50
Kuentzel, Ward A.	12	7.00
Ladd, Kenneth G.	5	12.00
Lamb, George M.	9	7.50
Lamb, R. A.	8	7.00
Lampe, Richard C.	15	5.00
Landers, John D.	5-8	14.50
Lane, John H.	5	6.00
Lang, J. L.	8	7.84
Larson, D. A.	8	6.00
Larson, Leland A.	9	6.00
Lasko, Charles W.	9	7.50
Lathrope, Franklin C.	15	5.00
Lawler, John B.	15	11.00
Lazear, E. R., Jr.	8	5.00
Lee, Richard J.	12-15	5.00
Leikness, Marlow J.	12	5.00
Lenfest, C. W.	8	5.00
Lenox, Jack, Jr.	15	5.00
Lent, Francis J.	5	11.00
Lesicka, Joseph J.	13	9.00
Leverette, William L.	12-15	11.00
Lewis, Warren R.	5	7.00
Lewis, W. H.	8	8.00
Liebers, Lawrence P.	12	7.00
Liles, Robert L.	10-14	6.00
Lines, T. E.	8	10.00
Littge, R. H.	8	10.50
Little, James W.	10-14	5.00
Loisel, John S.	5	11.00
Lombard, John D.	10	6.00
London, C. P.	8	5.00
Long, Maurice G.	9	5.50
Loving, George G., Jr.	15	5.00
Lowell, J. H.	8	7.50
Lowry, Wayne L.	15	11.00
Lucas, Paul W.	5	6.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Luksic, C. J.	8	8.50
Lustic, Stanley J.	7	6.00
Lutton, Lowell C.	5	5.00
Lynch, Thomas J.	5	20.00
MacDonald, Charles H.	5	27.00
MacKay, John A.	12	5.00
Magoffin, Morton D.	9	5.00
Maguire, W. J.	8	7.00
Mahon, Keith	14	5.00
Mahurin, Walker M.	8-5	20.75
Maloney, Thomas E.	15	8.00
Mankin, Jack C.	5	5.00
Marsh, L. C.	8	5.00
Marshall, B. W.	8	7.00
Martin, Kenneth R.	9	5.00
Mason, J. L.	8	5.00
Mathis, William H.	7	5.00
Mathre, Mildred E.	5	5.00
Matte, Joseph Z.	9	5.00
Maxwell, C. K.	8	5.00
Mayo, B. I., Jr.	8	5.00
McArthur, Paul G.	9	5.00
McArthur, T. H.	12	5.00
McCauley, F. E.	8	5.50
McComas, Edward O.	14	14.00
McCorkle, Charles M.	12-15	11.00
McDaniel, Gordon H.	15	6.00
McDonald, Norman L.	12-15	11.00
McDonough, William F.	5	5.00
McDowell, Don	9	8.50
McElroy, J. N.	8	5.00
McGee, Donald C.	5-8	6.00
McGinn, John L.	13-8	5.00
McGrattan, B. L.	8	8.50
McGuire, Thomas B., Jr.	5	38.00
McGuyrt, John W., Jr.	15	5.00
McKennon, P. W.	8	12.00
McKeon, Joseph T.	5-8	6.00
McLaughlin, Murray D.	15	7.00
McMinn, E. D.	8	5.00
Megura, N.	8	11.84
Meigs, Henry, II	13	6.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Meroney, V. K.	8	9.00
Merritt, G. L., Jr.	8	5.00
Meuten, Donald	5	6.00
Meyer, J. C.	8	24.00
Miklajcyk, H. J.	8	7.50
Miller, Armour C.	15	6.00
Miller, Everett	15	5.00
Miller, Joseph E., Jr.	12-9	5.00
Miller, Thomas F.	9	5.25
Millikan, W. W.	8	13.00
Milliken, Robert C.	9	5.00
Mills, H. L.	8	6.00
Minchew, L. D.	8	5.50
Mitchell, John W.	13-7FC	11.00
Moats, S. K.	8	8.50
Molland, Leland P.	12-15	11.00
Momyer, William W.	12	8.00
Monk, Franklin H.	5	5.00
Moore, John T.	5	7.00
Moore, Robert W.	7-7FC-20	12.00
Moran, G. T.	8	13.00
Morehead, James B.	5	7.00
Morrill, S. B.	8	9.00
Morris, J. M.	8	7.33
Morriss, Paul V.	5	5.00
Moseley, M. L.	8	6.50
Mugavero, James D.	5	6.00
Mulhollem, Robert F.	10	6.00
Murphey, Paul C., Jr.	5	6.00
Murphy, A. C.	8	8.00
Murphy, John B.	11-8	6.75
Myers, Jennings L.	5	5.00
Myers, R. B.	8	5.50
Nichols, Franklin A.	5	5.00
Norley, L. H.	8	11.33
Novotny, George-P.	12-15	8.00
Oberhansly, J. J.	8	5.00
O'Brien, G. M.	8	7.00
O'Brien, W. R.	8	5.50
O'Connor, Frank Q.	9	10.75
Ohr, Fred F.	12-15	6.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Older, Charles H.	14	8.00
Olds, R.	8	12.00
Olson, N. E.	8	6.00
O'Neill, John G.	5	8.00
O'Neill, Lawrence F.	5	5.00
Osher, Ernest K.	12	5.00
Overcash, Robert J.	9	5.00
Overfield, Loyd J.	9	9.00
Owens, Joel A., Jr.	12	5.00
Paisley, Melvyn R.	9	5.00
Parham, Forrest F.	14	5.00
Paris, Joel B., III	5	9.00
Parker, Harry A.	15	13.00
Pascoe, J. J.	8	6.00
Paulk, Edsel	15	5.00
Payne, Carl W.	8-12	7.00
Perdomo, Oscar F.	20	5.00
Peterson, R. A.	8	15.50
Pierce, J. F.	8	7.00
Pierce, Sammy A.	5	7.00
Pietz, John, Jr.	5	6.00
Pissanos, S. N.	8	7.00
Poindexter, J. N.	8	7.00
Pompetti, P. E.	8	5.50
Pool, Kenneth R.	5	5.00
Popek, Edward S.	5	5.00
Powers, J. H., Jr.	8	14.50
Powers, MacArthur	9	5.00
Preddy, G. E.	8	25.83
Price, J. C.	8	5.00
Priest, R. W.	8	5.00
Pryor, Roger C.	14	5.00
Pugh, J. F.	8	6.00
Purdy, John E.	5	7.00
Quigley, Donald L.	14	5.00
Quirk, M. J.	8	12.00
Rankin, R. J.	8	10.00
Ray, C. B.	5	5.00
Reed, William N.	14	6.00
Reese, W. C.	8	5.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Reeves, Leonard R.	10-14	6.00
Reynolds, Andrew J.	5	10.00
Reynolds, Robert	9	7.00
Richardson, Elmer W.	14	8.00
Riddle, Robert E.	15	11.00
Righetti, E. G.	8	7.50
Riley, P. S.	8	6.50
Rimerman, B.	8	7.00
Ritchey, Andrew J.	9	5.00
Robbins, Jay T.	5	22.00
Roberson, A. J.	8	6.00
Roberts, Daniel T., Jr.	5	14.00
Roberts, E. P.	8	9.00
Roberts, Newell O.	12	5.00
Roddy, Edward F.	5	8.00
Rogers, Felix M.	9	7.00
Rose, Franklin, Jr.	9	5.00
Ross, Herbert E.	12	7.00
Rounds, Gerald L.	12	5.00
Rowland, Robert R.	5	8.00
Ruder, L. A.	8	5.50
Rudolph, Henry S.	9	5.00
Rynne, William A.	15	5.00
Sangermano, Philip	15	8.00
Schank, T. D.	8	5.00
Scheible, W. R.	8	6.00
Schildt, William J.	12	6.00
Schilling, D. C.	8	22.50
Schiltz, G. D., Jr.	8	8.00
Schimanski, R. G.	8	6.00
Schlegel, A. L.	8	8.50
Schreiber, L. A.	8	12.00
Schuh, D. H.	8	5.00
Schultz (Shoals), Robert B.*	14	5.00
Scott, Robert L., Jr.	10	10.00
Sears, A. F.	8	5.00
Sears, Meldrum L.	12	7.00
Seidman, Robert K.	15	5.00
Shafer, Dale E., Jr.	12-8	8.00

\*Name officially changed from Schultz to Shoals after World War II.



<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Shaw, R. M.	8	8.00
Shipman, Ernest	15	7.00
Shomo, William A.	5	8.00
Shoup, Robert L.	9	5.50
Shubin, Murray J.	13	11.00
Shuler, Lucian B.	13	7.00
Simmons, John M.	15	7.00
Simmons, William J.	9	6.00
Skogstad, Norman C.	15	12.00
Sloan, William J.	12	12.00
Smith, Cornelius M., Jr.	5	11.00
Smith, D. F.	8	5.50
Smith, Jack R.	15	5.00
Smith, John C.	5	6.00
Smith, K. B.	8	5.00
Smith, L. C.	8	7.00
Smith, Meryl M.	5	9.00
Smith, Richard E.	5	7.00
Smith, Robert H.	13	8.00
Smith, Virgil H.	12	5.00
Sparks, Kenneth C.	5	11.00
Spencer, D. F.	8	9.50
Stanch, Paul M.	5	10.00
Stangel, W. J.	8	5.00
Stanley, M. A.	8	5.00
Stanton, Arland	5	8.00
Starck, W. E.	8	6.00
Starnes, J. R.	8	6.00
Stephens, Robert W.	9	13.00
Stewart, E. W.	8	7.83
Stewart, J. C.	8	12.50
Stewart, John S.	14	8.00
Storch, J. A.	8	10.50
Strait, D. J.	8	13.50
Strand, William H.	5	7.00
Sublett, J. L.	8	8.00
Suehr, Richard C.	5	5.00
Sullivan, Charles P.	5	5.00
Summer, Elliot	5	10.00
Sutcliffe, Robert C.	5	5.00
Sykes, W. J.	8	5.00
Talbot, Gilbert F.	9	5.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Tanner, W. F.	8	5.50
Tapp, James B.	7FC	8.00
Taylor, Oliver B.	15	5.00
Taylor, Ralph G., Jr.	12	6.00
Thompson, Robert D.	15	5.00
Thornell, J. F., Jr.	8	17.25 -
Thwaites, D. F.	8	6.00
Thyng, Harrison R.	12	5.00
Tilley, John A.	5	5.00
Tordoff, H. B.	8	5.00
Tovrea, Philip E., Jr.	15	8.00
Trafton, Frederick O., Jr.	12-15	5.50
Troxell, Clifton H.	5	5.00
Truluck, J. H.	8	7.00
Turley, G. M.	8	6.00
Turner, Richard E.	9	11.00
Turner, William L.	5-14	10.50
Tyler, G. E.	8	7.00
Tyler, James O.	12-15	8.00
Vanden Heuval, G.	8	5.50
Varnell, James S., Jr.	15	17.00
Vaughn, Harley C.	12	7.00
Vaught, Robert H.	5	5.00
Vincent, Clinton D.	10-14	6.00
Vinson, Arnold E.	12	7.00
Visscher, Herman W.	12	5.00
Vogt, John E.	7	5.00
Vogt, J. W., Jr.	8	8.00
Voll, John J.	15	21.00
Waggoner, H. Q.	8	5.00
Wagner, Boyd D.	5	8.00
Walker, Thomas H.	13	6.00
Walker, Walter B., Jr.	12	5.00
Wandrey, Ralph H.	5	6.00
Warford, Victor E.	15	8.00
Warren, J. R.	8	5.00
Waters, Edward T.	12	7.00
Watkins, James A.	5	12.00
Watson, Ralph J.	12-15	5.00
Watts, Oran S.	14	5.00
Weatherford, Sidney W.	12	5.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Weaver, C. E.	8	8.00
Webb, Willard J.	10	5.00
Welch, Darrell G.	12	5.00
Welch, George S.	5	16.00
Welch, R. E.	8	6.00
Welden, Robert D.	9	6.25
Wenige, Arthur E.	5	6.00
Wesson, W. M.	8	6.00
West, Richard L.	5	12.00
Westbrook, Robert B.	13	20.00
Wetmore, R. S.	8	22.59
Whalen, W. E.	8	6.00
Wheadon, Elmer M.	13	7.00
Whisner, W. T.	8	15.50
White, John H.	12	5.00
White, Robert H.	5	9.00
White, Thomas A.	12	6.00
Whittaker, Roy E.	9	7.00
Wicker, S. J.	8	7.00
Wilhelm, David C.	15	5.00
Wilkins, Paul H.	12-15	5.00
Wilkinson, J. W.	8	7.00
Williams, Russell D.	14	5.00
Williamson, F. D.	8	13.00
Wilson, W. F.	8	5.00
Winks, R. P.	8	5.50
Wire, Calvin C.	5	7.00
Wire, Ralph L.	5-14	5.00
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Wright, Max J.	15	5.00
Yaeger, Robert R., Jr.	5	5.00
Yeager, C. E.	8	11.50
York, R. M.	8	5.00
Zemke, H.	8	17.75
Zoerb, Daniel J.	15	7.00

<u>Name</u>	<u>Air Force(s)</u>	<u>Score</u>
Zubarik, Charles J.	12	6.00

Twenty or More Victories

<u>Name</u>	<u>Score</u>
Bong, Richard I.	40.00
McGuire, Thomas B., Jr.	38.00
Gabreski, F. S.	31.00
Johnson, R. S.	28.00
MacDonald, Charles H.	27.00
Preddy, G. E.	25.83
Meyer, J. C.	24.00
Wetmore, R. S.	22.59
Schilling, D. C.	22.50
Johnson, Gerald R.	22.00
Kearby, Neel E.	22.00
Robbins, Jay T.	22.00
Christensen, F. J.	21.50
Voll, John J.	21.00
Mahurin, Walker M.	20.75
Lynch, Thomas J.	20.00
Westbrook, Robert B.	20.00

## KOREAN WAR

In the Korean War, as in World War I, the procedures for awarding victory credits were uniform throughout the area in which the U. S. Air Force was in combat. Far East Air Forces, which had jurisdiction over all USAF units that were engaged, awarded victory credits to fighter (fighter-escort, -interceptor, -bomber) pilots for the destruction of enemy airplanes in the air and on the ground. If two fighter pilots destroyed one plane in the air, each man received one-half credit. Credit was also given to enlisted men who, while serving as gunners on B-29 aircraft, shot down enemy planes. In one instance a B-26 pilot received credit for destroying an enemy plane in the air.\* Victory credits were awarded not only to USAF personnel but also to fighter pilots who were members of other services (U. S. Navy, U. S. Marine Corps, Royal Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force, and Royal Canadian Air Force) but who either were serving exchange tours with USAF units or were assigned to foreign organizations attached to the U. S. Fifth Air Force.†

General orders were used by Headquarters, Far East Air Forces to award victory credits for the Korean War. Although no complete list of these credits has been published officially, an official list of persons who received credit for five or more aerial victories has been issued. This list was prepared by a board of officers at Headquarters USAF, approved by the Secretary of the Air Staff on 25 January 1957, and released by the Office of Information Services, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, under the heading, "Jet Aces of the Korean Conflict."

The list of Korean aces contains the names of thirty-eight USAF pilots, plus one Marine Corps pilot (Major John F. Bolt, credited with six air-to-air victories) who had been attached to Far East Air Forces. The scores are identified as air-to-air victories, and in compiling the list the board did not consider credits awarded by FEAF for planes destroyed on the ground. For example, the list does not contain the name of a pilot who was credited with destroying three enemy planes in the air and three on the ground. Since no member of a bomber crew was credited with as many as five victories, the board did not have to decide whether

\* For the destruction of a PO-2 by the B-26 pilot, Captain Richard M. Heyman, see Robert Frank Futrell, The United States Air Force in Korea, 1950-1953 (New York, 1961), 282.

† This paragraph is based on analysis of FEAF general orders awarding victory credits for the Korean War. See also, Fifth Air Force Regulation 14-4.

gunners should be listed as aces. The list also indicates scores for air-to-air victories of World War II, but approval of the Korean listing evidently was not intended to cover the World War II scores that had been injected into the list.

None of the USAF pilots who flew propeller-driven aircraft in Korea destroyed as many as five enemy aircraft in the air. Most of the enemy aircraft counted in the scores of the Korean aces were jets, but some were propeller driven. It is evident, therefore, that the heading of the list, "Jet Aces of the Korean Conflict," was based on the fact that the aces won their victories while flying jet aircraft.

Following are the names, and Korean scores, of the U.S. Air Force personnel listed on the chart, "Jet Aces of the Korean Conflict." In approving the chart, the Secretary of the Air Staff labeled it the "final and 'official' list of Korean 'Aces.'"<sup>\*</sup>

ACES OF THE KOREAN WAR

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u> <sup>†</sup>	<u>Wing</u>	<u>Score</u>
Adams, Donald E.	Maj.	51	6.5
Baker, Royal N.	Col.	4	13.0
Baldwin, Robert P.	Col.	51	5.0
Becker, Richard S.	Capt.	4	5.0
Bettinger, Stephen L.	Maj.	4	5.0
Blesse, Frederick C.	Maj.	4	10.0
Buttelmann, Henry	1st Lt.	51	7.0
Creighton, Richard D.	Maj.	4	5.0
Curtin, Clyde A.	Capt.	4	5.0
Davis, George A., Jr.	Maj.	4	14.0
Fernandez, Manuel J.	Capt.	4	14.5
Fischer, Harold E.	1st Lt.	51	10.0

<sup>\*</sup>Memo, for Deputy Director, Office of Information Services, by Secretary of the Air Staff, subj: Distribution of Chart on "Aces," 24 January 1957. When the USAF Historical Division attempted in April 1957 to obtain a statement of the criteria used by the board in preparing the list, the Division was informed that there was "nothing in writing."

<sup>†</sup> At the time the last credit was awarded. The list approved by the Secretary of the Air Staff gives the rank as of the time the list was completed late in 1956.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Rank</u>	<u>Wing</u>	<u>Score</u>
Foster, Cecil G.	1st Lt.	51	9.0
Gabreski, Francis S.	Col.	51	6.5
Garrison, Vermont	Lt. Col.	4	10.0
Gibson, Ralph D.	Capt.	4	5.0
Hagerstrom, James P.	Maj.	18	8.5
Jabara, James	Maj.	4	15.0
Johnson, James K.	Col.	4	10.0
Jolley, Clifford D.	Capt.	4	7.0
Jones, George L.	Lt. Col.	4	6.5
Kasler, James H.	1st Lt.	4	6.0
Kincheloe, Iven C., Jr.	Capt.	51	5.0
Latshaw, Robert T., Jr.	Capt.	4	5.0
Lilley, Leonard W.	Capt.	4	7.0
Love, Robert J.	Capt.	4	6.0
Low, James F.	2d Lt.	4	9.0
Marshall, Winton W.	Maj.	4	6.5
McConnell, Joseph, Jr.	Capt.	51	16.0
Moore, Lonnie R.	Capt.	4	10.0
Moore, Robert H.	Capt.	51	5.0
Overton, Dolphin D., III	Capt.	51	5.0
Parr, Ralph S., Jr.	Capt.	4	10.0
Risner, Robinson	Capt.	4	8.0
Ruddell, George I.	Lt. Col.	51	8.0
Thyng, Harrison R.	Col.	4	5.0
Wescott, William H.	Maj.	51	5.0
Whisner, William T.	Maj.	51	5.5

Ten or More Victories

<u>Name</u>	<u>Score</u>
McConnell, Joseph, Jr.	16.0
Jabara, James	15.0
Fernandez, Manuel J.	14.5
Davis, George A., Jr.	14.0
Baker, Royal N.	13.0
Blesse, Frederick C.	10.0
Fischer, Harold E.	10.0
Garrison, Vermont	10.0
Johnson, James K.	10.0
Moore, Lonnie R.	10.0
Parr, Ralph S., Jr.	10.0

ACES OF TWO WARS

While none of the men credited with victories for the First World War received credits for the Second, a number of Air Force officers won victories in both World War II and the Korean War. In fact, six World War II aces--George A. Davis, Jr.; F. S. Gabreski; Vermont Garrison; James P. Hagerstrom; Harrison R. Thyng; and William T. Whisner--also became Korean aces. Other World War II aces raised their scores. Some pilots who had less than five credits for the Second World War won five or more victories against the Communists. Others, with fewer than five credits for either war, became aces as a result of the combination of scores for the two wars. Following is a list of men whose individual scores for World War II and Korea combine to give each a total of five or more victories.

<u>Name</u>	<u>World War II</u>	<u>Korean War</u>	<u>Total</u>
Baker, Royal N.	3.50	13.00	16.50
Bettinger, Stephen L.	1.00	5.00	6.00
Brueland, Lowell K.	12.50	2.00	14.50
Chandler, Van E.	5.00	3.00	8.00
Colman, Philip E.	5.00	4.00	9.00
Creighton, Richard D.	2.00	5.00	7.00
Davis, George A., Jr.	7.00	14.00	21.00
Eagleston, Glenn T.	18.50	2.00	20.50
Emmert, Benjamin H., Jr.	6.00	1.00	7.00
Gabreski, F. S.	31.00	6.50	37.50
Garrison, Vermont	7.33	10.00	17.33
Hagerstrom, James P.	6.00	8.50	14.50
Heller, E. L.	5.50	3.50	9.00
Hockery, J. J.	7.00	1.00	8.00
Hovde, W. J.	10.50	1.00	11.50
Jabara, James	1.50	15.00	16.50
Johnson, James K.	1.00	10.00	11.00
Liles, Brooks J.	1.00	4.00	5.00
Mahurin, Walker M.	20.75	3.50	24.25
Mattson, Conrad E.	1.00	4.00	5.00
Meyer, John C.	24.00	2.00	26.00
Mitchell, John W.	11.00	4.00	15.00
Ruddell, George I.	2.50	8.00	10.50
Thyng, Harrison R.	5.00	5.00	10.00
Visscher, Herman W.	5.00	1.00	6.00
Whisner, William T.	15.50	5.50	21.00



## BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

When responsibility for historical matters pertaining to aces was assigned to the USAF Historical Division in 1957, the pertinent files of Headquarters USAF and of the Military Personnel Records Center at St. Louis were transferred to the Division and deposited in its archives. The archives already contained operations reports, unit histories, general orders, biographies, and other documents containing data relating to aces. Through the cooperation and assistance of the Military Personnel Records Center at St. Louis and the Federal Records Center at Kansas City, the Division also had access to important collections of documents in those depositories, particularly files of general orders available at St. Louis and Kansas City, and personnel files at St. Louis.

World War I

As indicated in the section devoted to World War I, the list of aces is based upon a tabulation of victory credits published in Air Service Information Circular (Heavier-than-Air), Vol. I, No. 7 (9 February 1920), as revised and amended. In connection with other projects, the Division has had occasion to check the scores of some of the persons listed in the official tabulation of victory credits. In each instance the score given in the official tabulation has proved to be accurate. A complete check, to verify all the scores, has not been made in connection with Project ACE.

World War II

The preparation of the World War II data presented in this pamphlet required a vast amount of research, the magnitude of the task being evident from the fact that there were nearly 700 aces, and from the fact that during the war the U. S. Army Air Forces, by its own accounting, destroyed more than 40,000 enemy aircraft, nearly 15,000 of which were destroyed in the air by AAF fighters.

After a review of the work that already had been accomplished by various persons and agencies, the first major task was to establish the criteria to be used for the development of the World War II list of aces. The next major task was to discover the primary sources for data pertaining to victory credits. Since the systems employed for recording victory credits varied with time and place, it was necessary to determine what sources contained the basic data for the victory credits of the various air forces and areas of operations. The findings are outlined in the paragraphs

which follow.

Personnel of the Army Air Forces had no opportunities to gain victory credits while on duty with any of the five air forces (First, Second, Third, Fourth, and Sixth) based in the American Theater because those air forces were not engaged in air-to-air combat against the enemy.

For the European Theater of Operations (Eighth and Ninth Air Forces and the Iceland Base Command), the victory credits of Ninth Air Force are contained in reports issued by the victory credit boards of IX Fighter, IX Tactical Air, XIX Tactical Air, and XXIX Tactical Air Commands. Those of Eighth Air Force are tabulated in "Eighth Air Force Final Report of Assessed Fighter Claims against Enemy Aircraft, August 1942-April 1945," prepared by Headquarters, VIII Fighter Command in September 1945.\* Those won by personnel in Iceland are recorded in general orders issued by Iceland Base Command. Some of these orders awarded specific credits; others mentioned victories in making awards of decorations.

For the Mediterranean area (Middle Eastern Theater; North African Theater of Operations; Mediterranean Theater of Operations), in which the Ninth, Twelfth, and Fifteenth Air Forces operated, victory credits are recorded in general orders relating to decorations. These orders were issued by headquarters of the following organizations: Ninth Air Force; IX Fighter Command; Twelfth Air Force; XII Fighter Command (later XXII Tactical Air Command); XII Bomber Command; XII Air Support Command; 5th, 42d, and 47th Bombardment Wings; United States Army Middle East Air Force; United States Army Forces in the Middle East; Northwest African Air Forces; Northwest African Coastal Air Force; Northwest African Strategic Air Force; Army Air Forces, North African Theater of Operations; North African Theater of Operations, U. S. Army; Army Air Forces, Mediterranean Theater of Operations; Mediterranean Theater of Operations, U. S. Army.

In the South and Southwest Pacific areas (Fifth and Thirteenth Air Forces) the headquarters of Fifth and Thirteenth Air Forces issued series of general orders to award victory credits and list cumulative scores. General Order 148, issued by Headquarters, Fifth Air Force on 5 September 1945, has been accepted generally as the final tabulation of scores for fighter pilots of the Fifth; however, a few additional credits were awarded by orders published later. Headquarters, Thirteenth Air Force did not

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\* A detailed analysis and critical evaluation, prepared by the USAF Historical Division in October 1960, is available in the files of Project ACE.

adopt this system of awarding credits until 1944; earlier the victories credited to personnel of Thirteenth Air Force were recorded in connection with decorations awarded by means of general orders issued by Headquarters, United States Army Forces in the South Pacific Area.

For the Central and Western Pacific areas (Seventh and Twentieth Air Forces, plus VII Fighter Command, which for a period in 1945 was not assigned to any numbered air force), victory credits are mentioned in general orders awarding decorations. These orders were issued by headquarters of the following organizations: Seventh Air Force; VII Fighter Command; Eighth Air Force (after 16 July 1945); Twentieth Air Force; United States Army Strategic Air Forces; Army Air Forces, Pacific Ocean Areas; Tenth Army; United States Army Forces, Pacific.

For the China-Burma-India Theater (Tenth and Fourteenth Air Forces), victory credits are recorded in general orders relating to decorations bestowed by headquarters of the following organizations: Tenth Air Force; Fourteenth Air Force, Army Air Forces, India-Burma Theater; Army Air Forces, China Theater; China Air Task Force; United States Army Forces, CBI.

In Alaska, Headquarters, Eleventh Air Force used general orders to award some victory credits. Other victories are recorded in connection with decorations bestowed by general orders issued by Headquarters, Eleventh Air Force and by Headquarters, Alaskan Defense Command.

Once the primary sources had been discovered, it was a relatively simple, though tedious and time-consuming, task to extract the pertinent data. Unfortunately, some of that data was vague, incomplete, conflicting, and, in some instances, obviously inaccurate. For example, general orders pertaining to victories did not always make clear whether the person cited was a fighter pilot, or whether the enemy plane was destroyed as a result of air-to-air combat or as a result of aerial strafing of enemy craft on the ground. Some of the orders did not mention the date of the action or the type enemy craft destroyed, a situation that posed the problem of determining whether or not the victory mentioned in a specific order was the same one mentioned in connection with some other decoration. Names, serial numbers, dates, and other data sometimes were wrong. Because of these and the many other problems that were encountered in connection with the data extracted from the primary documents, it was necessary to undertake a large amount of research in other documents in order to interpret the primary sources accurately. Unit histories, mission summaries, pilots' reports, personnel files, biographical sketches, and such other materials as were available were used for this supplementary research.

Korean War

The list of Korean aces is that contained in the chart, "Jet Aces of the Korean Conflict," approved by the Secretary of the Air Staff on 24 January 1957. The accuracy of that listing has been verified by the USAF Historical Division from the general orders that were issued by Headquarters, Far East Air Forces in awarding victory credits for the Korean War.

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