

# To Fly and Fight: Memoirs of a Triple Ace

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A top fighter pilot tells the story of a life in aviation, from World War II fighter combat to years of dangerous test-piloting

CLARENCE E. "BUD" ANDERSON in thirty years of continuous service, flew two combat tours during World War II, flight tested aircraft at Wright Field and Edwards Air Force Base, did two tours at the Pentagon, commanded three fighter units, and flew ground-support combat missions in Southeast Asia. He was decorated twenty-five times. He lives in Auburn, California, with Ellie, his wife of more than fifty years.

Anderson, a California farm boy who loved hot cars and airplanes, earned his wings in the Army Air Corps in September 1942 and flew P-39s. Sent to Europe in 1944, his squadron traded in their P-39s for P-51 Mustangs. Anderson flew 116 missions with the Mustang and shot down 17 enemy planes without receiving a single hit to his own plane. He also served in the Korean War and Vietnam, and as a test pilot. In the course of his 30-year career in the Air Force he was decorated 25 times. Hamelin, a sportswriter, does a highly credible job of telling Anderson's story. He skillfully interweaves anecdotes by men who flew with Anderson, such as fellow World War II section leader Chuck Yeager. Anderson's accounts of some of the projects he flew as a test pilot, as well as his candid remarks on the early space and high altitude programs give the reader an insider's view. An exceptional account of an exceptional man. Highly recommended. Photos not seen.

- George F. Scheck, Naval Underwater System Ctr. Lib., Newport, R.I.

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