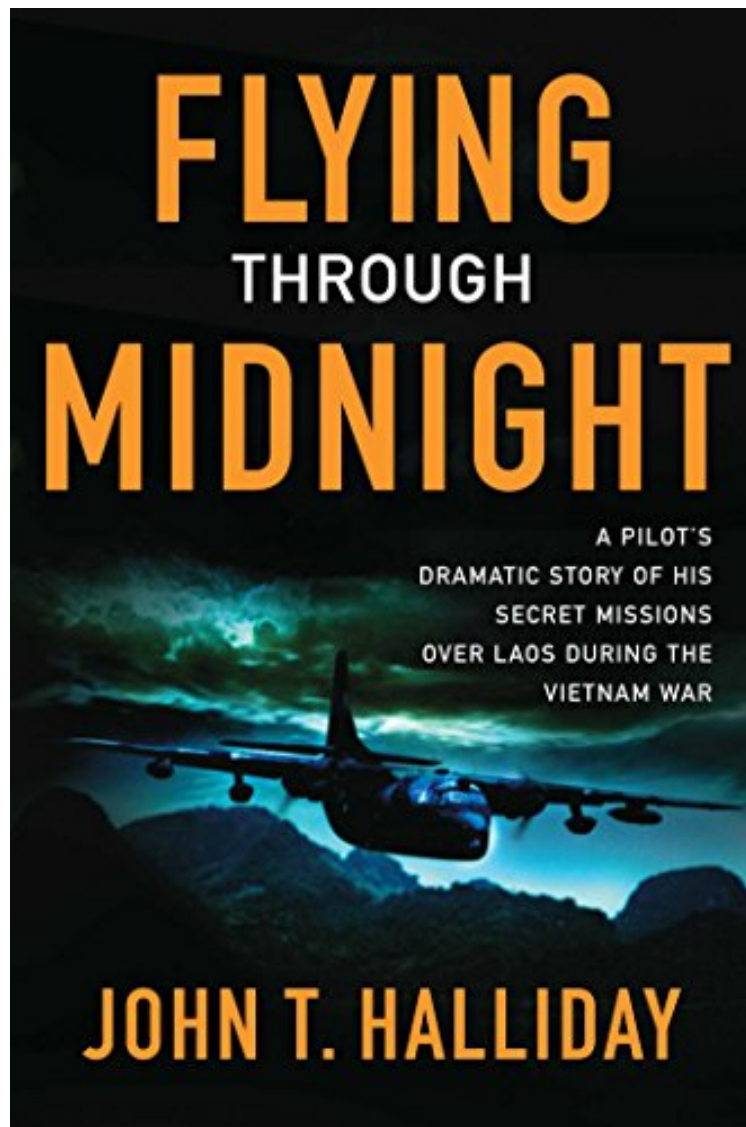


(Ebook pdf) Flying Through Midnight: A Pilot's Dramatic Story of His Secret Missions Over Laos During the Vietnam War (English Edition)

Flying Through Midnight: A Pilot's Dramatic Story of His Secret Missions Over Laos During the Vietnam War (English Edition)

Von John T. Halliday

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Von John T. Halliday : Flying Through Midnight: A Pilot's Dramatic Story of His Secret Missions Over Laos During the Vietnam War (English Edition) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Flying Through Midnight: A Pilot's Dramatic Story of His Secret Missions Over Laos During the Vietnam War (English Edition):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. One of the best (if not the best) Von roger-wilco-66I have read many aviation and history related books and prefer autobiographies because they relate a more personal viewpoint of how things happened to the reader. For someone who enjoys that kind of reading, this book is second to none. Let me explain that. I have never read a book so far in that genre that dealt so much with the psychology of someone who, as a young "go by the book" man, entered a life-threatening and brutal scenario of the sort that John T. Halliday had to when he was transferred into Nakhon Phanom back in his days to fly these candlestick-missions in the C-123K Provider. His writing is gripping, and the way how he describes his emotional and practical transformation from a textbook air-force pilot into a "anything's-possible", balls-out survivor is simply stunning, sometimes even disturbing. He also managed to link the spirit of the young generation in late sixties and early seventies into his story by using the lyrics of popular songs back then in an almost poetical way and by this way creates an emotionally very dense background for his stories. To the technically inclined reader, this book presents a very interesting insight in the operation of the Fairchild C-123k Provider, with detailed descriptions of its engines and the way the crew flew this remarkable aircraft back then, even with some very unconventional flying procedures. He also describes the way the missions were flown quite well, at least to my understanding. I also liked how he stressed that the operation of this aircraft was a combined crew effort and the way the crew shared their workload and depended on each other. I have heard some negative remarks about the book, where people found minor errors (a wrong call-sign and differences in descriptions of places he mentioned), but to me this is absolutely low priority since I can not judge that as I have not been there at that time and it does not change the essence of this work at all. Halliday accomplished his mission of writing this book, and even surpassed all standards in this genre by blending technical, historical, psychological and poetical aspects into something that gives the reader one of the most exciting reading experiences to be had. Mr. Halliday, I thank you for your perseverance in publishing this work!

KurzbeschreibungRiveting, novelistic, and startlingly candid, John T. Halliday's combat memoir begins in 1970, when Halliday has just landed in the middle of the Vietnam War, primed to begin his assignment with the 606th Special Operations Squadron. But there's a catch: He's stationed in a kind of no-man's-land. No one on his base flies with ID, patches, or rank. Even as Richard Nixon firmly denies reporters' charges that the United States has forces in Laos, Halliday realizes that from his base in Thailand, he will be flying top-secret, black-ops night missions over the Laotian Ho Chi Minh Trail. A naive yet thoughtful twenty-four-year-old, Halliday was utterly unprepared for the horrors of war. On his first mission, Halliday's C-123 aircraft dodges more than a thousand anti-aircraft shells, and that is just the beginning. Nothing is as he expected -- not the operations, not the way his shell-shocked fellow pilots look and act, and certainly not the squadron's daredevil, seat-of-one's-pants approach to piloting. But before long, Halliday has become one of those seasoned and shell-shocked pilots, and finds himself in a desperate search for a way to elude certain death. Using frank, true-to-life dialogue, potent imagery, and classic 1970s song lyrics, Halliday deftly describes the fraught Laotian skies and re-creates his struggle to navigate the frustrating Air Force bureaucracy, the deprivations of a remote base far from home and his young wife, and his fight to preserve his sanity. The resulting nonfiction narrative vividly captures not only the intricate, distorted culture of war but also the essence of the Vietnam veteran's experience of this troubled era. A powerhouse fusion of pathos and humor, brutal realism and intimate reflection, *Flying Through Midnight* is a landmark contribution to war literature, revealing previously top-secret intelligence on the 606th's night missions. Fast-paced, thrilling, and bitingly intelligent, Halliday illuminates it all: the heart-pounding air battles, the close friendships, the crippling fear, and the astonishing final escape that made the telling of it possible. deWhen John Halliday arrived at Thailand's Nakhon Phanom Air Base in 1970, he thought the next year would bore him out of his skull. He believed his mission in the Vietnam War would be to fly cargo around Thailand. What could be easier? A couple of nights later, Halliday found himself dodging dozens of anti-aircraft shells in an aging cargo plane over the Ho Chi Minh Trail. *Flying Through Midnight* is his riveting account of his top-secret black-ops assignment--one of the most dangerous of the war. Halliday flew slow propeller-driven relics at night deep into guerrilla territory in the "unofficial" war in Laos. His task with the 606th Special Operations Squadron was to help pinpoint guerrilla truck convoys for U.S. planes to bomb. Meanwhile, President Richard Nixon denied U.S. forces were fighting in Laos. Halliday wasn't even supposed to tell his wife what he was doing. His mail and phone calls were monitored, and soon he went from being a jittery FNG ("f---ing new guy") to a decorated war hero who logged 800 combat flight hours in Vietnam and the Gulf War. He was awarded the Air Force's Distinguished Flying Cross for one particularly amazing feat of bravery--a nighttime crash-landing on an unlit airstrip amid soaring mountains, which saved his crew. *Flying Through Midnight* does a remarkable job bringing to life Halliday's dramatic combat experiences, the foibles of his superiors, the brutalities of war, and the colorful quirks of his fellow flyboys, including his roommate whose favorite hobby was reading canned-food labels. There's not much here about the deeper rationale of the Vietnam War, but it's a gripping read. --Alex Roslin Pressestimmen"*Flying Through Midnight* is a no-holds-barred account of the secret air war over Laos. John Halliday paints a compelling cockpit view of the action, but he

also immerses his readers in layer upon layer of sensations and emotions associated with those dangerous nighttime missions. He takes us on a hell of a ride!" -- Col. Tom Yarborough, author of *Da Nang Diary: A Forward Air Controller's Gunsight View of Combat in Vietnam* "This true story should be required reading for every citizen who ever ventures to comment about war. Don't categorize this work as a 'Vietnam book.' Instead, *Flying Through Midnight* is an eternal story that transcends any war." -- John J. Nance, author of *Fire Flight* "In 1970 a twenty-four-year-old pilot flies over Laos with no identifying papers or patches. His commander in chief -- Richard Nixon -- denies his existence. Now for the first time, John Halliday takes you into the cockpit as he flies his dangerous top-secret missions. A gripping read." -- James Bradley, author of *Flags of Our Fathers* and *Flyboys* "This book goes right to the heart of how a pilot takes responsibility for an aircrew flying secret night missions over Laos during the Vietnam War, and it describes the catch-22 craziness of that war. This book is destined to become one of the great books about the Vietnam War." -- Frederick Downs, author of *The Killing Zone: My Life in the Vietnam War* "Halliday superbly conveys the complex thoughts experienced by combat pilots and writes vividly of combat flying over Laos." -- Col. Bob Stoffey, author of *Cleared Hot!: The Diary of a Marine Combat Pilot in Vietnam* "This is a riveting first-person account of a pilot and his crew flying night missions in a C-123 over Laos during the Vietnam War. This book must be read by anyone interested in the Vietnam War. The air war over Laos was a crucial though secret sideshow to Vietnam, but it was just as brutal. I hated to put the book down because the story was so good." -- Bob Kerrey, former United States senator, president of The New School, and Medal of Honor recipient