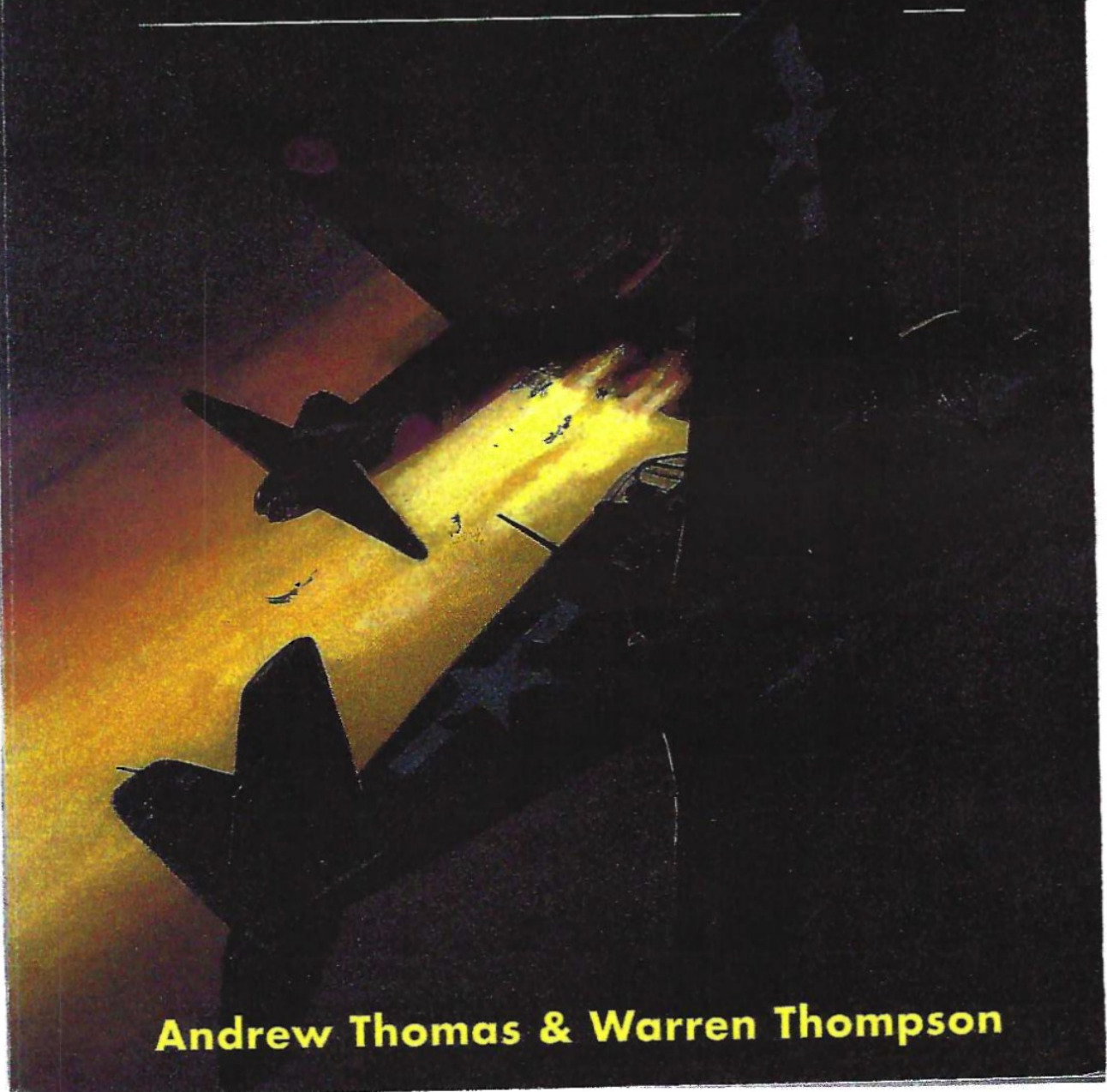


★ OSPREY AIRCRAFT OF THE ACES® • 84 ★

American Nightfighter Aces of World War 2



Andrew Thomas & Warren Thompson

Excerpts re Flt. Lt. Glen Holland

Page 18

Late in November fellow non-commissioned USAAF pilot TSgt V J Chipman was also posted to No 605 Sqn, and he duly flew his first operational mission to the Frisian Islands before the month was out. On 4 January 1944, fellow American pilot, albeit one serving in the RCAF, Flt Lt Glen Holland flew his first sortie to Dreux. That same night 'Bud' Miller visited Laon, where he spotted a twin-engined aircraft taking off at Roye. Although he bombed the airfield, he lost contact with the aircraft.

Page 22

The following night, in clear, starry weather, Flt Lt Glen Holland also flew an intruder sortie to the Brussels area where he damaged an unidentified aircraft. It was the first of the 25-year-old's five claims with No 605 Sqn. The next night he was over Germany, where he caught a Bf 110 nightfighter near Ansbach. Holland subsequently reported;

'We had passed the runway when we saw an enemy aircraft's landing lights approaching to land. They were flicked on and off several times. We turned back to try and get into position to attack the enemy aircraft on the runway, but were unable to manoeuvre whilst its lights were on. We turned and attacked from the southwest, opening fire at a height of about 100 ft and a range of approximately 200 yrd. Strikes were seen to the rear of the cockpit, crossing through to the port engine and into the hangar. The enemy aircraft was recognised as a Me 110 in the lights of the hangar. We broke away to port to avoid the hangar and other obstructions.'

He then continued with the sortie, attacking several trains that were seen in marshalling yards, before heading for home.

A week later Flt Lt Holland flew to Rheine, where he spotted a Ju 88; 'A 2-3 second burst was fired and a good concentration of strikes was seen. We passed over it, turned to the right and saw flames and a small explosion. We turned downwind on the north side of the aerodrome and the Ju 88 was seen to be still burning.'

Four nights after his second victory, Glen Holland took off for an intruder mission to the nightfighter training base at Schleissheim. Nothing was seen until he and his navigator reached Neuburg, midway between Nuremberg and Munich. The airfield was found to be fully lit. After investigating several possibilities, they spotted an Fw 190 in the circuit, which they promptly shot down. This was closely followed by the destruction of another enemy aircraft which the pair was unable to identify. Glen Holland wrote immediately afterwards;

'I closed to approximately 150 yrd, recognising him as an Fw 190, and I gave him a two-second burst. Strikes were seen and he erupted in flames. I did a quick turn to starboard to avoid hitting him and he did a slow spiral dive into the ground, exploding and burning on impact. I returned to Neuburg at 2303 hrs. It was still lit, and I saw an aircraft approaching to land with its navigation lights on. It landed to the left of the main runway. I closed to 100 yrd at about 50 ft (15 m) height, recognising the enemy aircraft as being single-engined. I gave him a one-second burst, and he exploded immediately and burst into flames. I turned back and took a cine shot of the wreckage, then set course for base.'

These victories took his total to four destroyed and one damaged. But Glen Holland was destined not to become an ace, for on the night of 20/21 April 1944, he and navigator Flg Off W H Wilkinson failed to return from an intruder mission to Rheine.

Mosquito VI HX823/UP-K of Flt Lt G A Holland RCAF, No 605 'County of Warwick' Sqn, Bradwell Bay, March 1944

Although Flt Off 'Bud' Miller regularly flew HX823 in early 1944, the aircraft was also operated by Flt Lt Glen Holland, another successful American pilot serving with the RCAF. On the night of 15/16 March, Holland shot up five trains near Ansbach in this aircraft, but he was killed on the night of 20/21 April. He had made five claims, including four aircraft destroyed, prior to his death. HX823 was lost on an intruder mission to Holland on 23 March.



9
Mosquito VI
HX823/UP-K of Ftr Lt
G A Holland RCAF,
No 605 County of
Warwick Sqn,
Bradwell Bay, March
1944