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An Emotional Gauntlet

From Life in Peacetime America to the
War in European Skies

Stuart J. Wright

"[An Emotional Gauntlet] describes each mission in great detail, including the D-Day invasion. It is very informative, descriptive, awesome . . . filled with humor, chaos, horror, and tragedy."

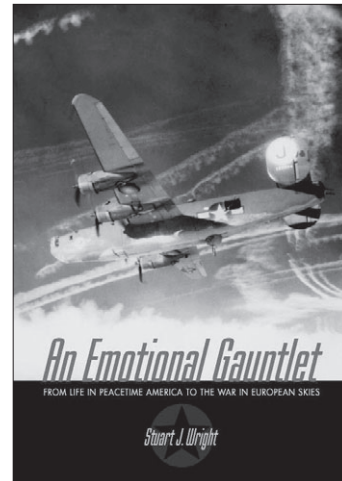
—Harriett Gustason, *Freeport Journal-Standard*

Stuart J. Wright tells the gripping story of a World War II American aircrew flying missions from England in a B-24 Liberator bomber they nicknamed *Corky*. This is a true account based on years of research and correspondence with crewmembers and their families. Wright adds a dimension rarely explored in other World War II memoirs and narratives, beginning the chronicle during peacetime when the men of the aircrew are introduced as civilians—kids during the 1920s. As they mature through the years of the Great Depression to face a world at war, questions are raised about "just" and "unjust" wars, imperialism, and patriotism. Jingoistic sentimentality is resisted in favor of objectivity, as the feelings and motivations of the crewmembers are explored: the Chinese American air gunner had hoped to serve in the U.S. Army Air Force to fight against the Japanese invaders of his homeland; the Jewish navigator felt compelled to join the battle against Nazi Germany.

In recounting the harrowing conditions and horrors of bombing missions over Europe, *An Emotional Gauntlet* emphasizes the interpersonal relationships within the crew and the spirit these men shared. *Corky's* crew served under Operations Officer Major James Stewart (the Hollywood movie star). They often returned from arduous bombing missions to sleep in half-empty huts—their friends in other planes had not been so lucky. Pilot Jack Nortridge regularly assured his crew, "If you fly with me, I'm going to bring you home." This book is a testament to their strength and determination.

"A compelling story. Wright establishes the strong spirit these men shared, based on their pilot's pledge that he would bring them back—back from each mission and back to resume their peacetime lives. *An Emotional Gauntlet* stands out for its integration of prewar civilian life with wartime experiences. To me, this is the essence of America's story in the war, and I am glad to find a book that comprehends this and tells the story from this perspective."—Jerome Klinkowitz, author of *Yanks over Europe: American Flyers in World War II*

Stuart J. Wright is a writer and musician based in London. He has flown in the last flying B-24 in the world. This is his first book.



SEPTEMBER 2004

352 PP. 7 X 10

ISBN 0-299-20520-7 CLOTH \$35.00

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"Superb. I highly recommend An Emotional Gauntlet. The main thread, about the Corky crew, is terrific."

—Martin W. Bowman,
author of *B-24 Liberator: Combat Legends and Wild Blue Yonder: Glory Days of the U.S. 8th Air Force in England*



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