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Disney Dons Dogtags: The Best Of Disney Military Insignia From World War II (Recollectible Series)



Synopsis

Swamped with requests from the military for permission to use their famous cartoon characters in unit insignia and for nose art on fighter planes, the Disney studio set up a special group to design badges and emblems for all branches of service - American and Allied (Lord Mountbatten was one of the first to write in). Part of the studio's extensive contribution to the war effort (which included countless training films), was some 1200 delightful insignia, the best of which have been selected for this volume. It is a tribute to Disney's expertise in characterization that some of the studio's famous figures were immediately suitable for military service. Donald Duck appeared on more than 100 designs (his uncontrollable temper fit him for such roles) but the sweet and lovable Mickey Mouse was less often called upon. Where no character quite fit an assignment the studio happily created a new one, as in the case of insignia for the flying Tigers and the Seabees. This book may interest not only veterans and military buffs but also Disney art enthusiasts and collectors.

Book Information

Series: Recollectible series

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: Abbeville Pr; 1 edition (September 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1558594019

ISBN-13: 978-1558594012

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 9.2 x 9.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.5 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,416,851 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #61 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Magazines & Newspapers](#) #147 in [Books > History > Military > Uniforms](#) #356 in [Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Americana](#)

Customer Reviews

I am a long volunteer for the MN Air National Guard Museum. I was never in military service due to asthma. Books like this one are excellent reference material for my military research.. My Uncles were in service during this time period. My Dad's oldest brother was a combat infantry man in Europe, he landed 4th wave Omaha Beach D-Day +1 and he was at the Battle of the Bulge. My Dad's second oldest brother was a marine./ He would has been in the invasion of Japan, if it would

has take place. THE MN ANG Museum has been around almost 30 years now, I Have been volunteering for 27 years THE MUSEUM is on the MN ANG Base at Minneapolis- St Paul International AirportRon Kaup

The product in general was good. The presentation in the book was a bit crowded and the artwork seemed blurred at times. Not really what you would expect for the price. But acceptable.

An enjoyable booklet but could have been more comprehensive and arranged better. A few pages similar to those in the wartime National Geographic would have been nice.

Been looking for a copy of this little volume for a long time. Glad to have it on my reference shelf!

I've always enjoyed browsing through this book to look at the amazing selection of military insignia that the Disney folk created for the fighting forces. It's worth saying though that I think the title is aimed at the general reader and those interested in pop culture rather than those who are looking for a serious analysis of the companies war effort. There are probably a few hundred insignia in these pages presented in a bright and breezy manner which I thought worked well with this kind of graphic material. Most of the designs are shown as flat art, clean and tight enough to make me think they were taken from the original artwork. Other examples seem to be enlargements from printed sources because the screen is clearly visible. The book's square format works well with the material. Here and there throughout the pages are various matchbooks with the designs printed on the cover and on page thirty-six Pepsi-Cola get a look in with a matchbook showing the logo for Patwing Support Force Aviation Repair Unit 1. Pepsi produced forty-eight different covers and it's a pity they all couldn't be included. There also a few clothing patches and poster stamps shown. A slight annoyance is that there is no index. Walton Rawls writes about the insignia and how the various artists interpreted the Disney menagerie into stunning graphics to keep up the morale of the military during WW2. This lovely book is a celebration of great art that worked.***LOOK AT SOME INSIDE PAGES by clicking 'customer images' under the cover.

One of the most personal, meaningful efforts ever produced by the Walt Disney Studios was not an animated movie for the masses, a big box office live action adventure, or even a theme park. It was the work they provided for the soldiers, sailors, and airmen of World War II. The studio animators under Walt's direction provided free of charge the design of over 1,000 original artistic logos for the

armed forces. These were used on individual planes, tanks, and ships for their crews. They also helped design unit insignias for organized armoured units, air wings and squadrons, infantry units and others. These requests were sometimes funneled through the official military channels, but more often came in a letter sent from overseas signed by a bunch of American young men. Most often the boys would send in a rough sketch of what they had in mind, or asked to use a certain animated character they favored. Other times they let the studio come up with whatever they wanted, and the artists often created new characters on the spot. No request was too big or too small, the animators completed every job. These designs were incredible and inspiring works of art, not something dashed off in a hurry. This effort began when early one morning a few days after the bombing of Pearl Harbour, the phone rang at Walt Disney's house. The Studio called to tell him that 700 army troops had set up camp at the Walt Disney studio campus, in order to protect the nearby airfield. The long war hurt the Disney company many ways, including the loss of key staff to the armed forces, reduction in commercial output and attendance, and cuts in overseas theatrical releases of their films. Despite these issues that could have caused resentment of the war's interference in Disney growth and success, the company dove in to do their part to support the war effort. Whether it was in producing great war time comedy animated shorts such as "Der Fuehrer's Face" to keep up the public morale; or educational films to teach soldiers how to operate a certain weapon or avoid disease; or deeply researched theory films like "Victory Through Airpower

When I got this book new YEARS ago, I guess I was expecting a lot more. I had seen the vast resources of the Disney vaults, and I felt that this, while it has some nice items, was just skimming the surface of the wonderful treasures therein. Also, the overly-artsy layout of the book seems to attempt to hide the meager content with glitzy and jazzy designs on nearly every page. It actually has had me wishfully waiting for a sequel to this, to cover all the untold leftovers that haven't been shown. I would have been happy with a very simple book design, even with repetitive basic tables displaying the art and stories behind it, and let the art itself tell the story and show its own grandeur, rather than an over-fluffed layout leaving me thirsty for more. I will give it a 3 star "ok-to-good" rating because what is in there is quite good, but overall the book itself falls short of delivering a comprehensive promise of any kind.

I am a military insignias artist. I have been recreating military insignias on leather for over 18 years. The Disney artists have created some of the very best military art work in the world. This book has some of the many terrific designs created by the Disney artists. I have been fascinated with the

Disney art work ever since I had lunch with Walt Disney as a young boy.

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