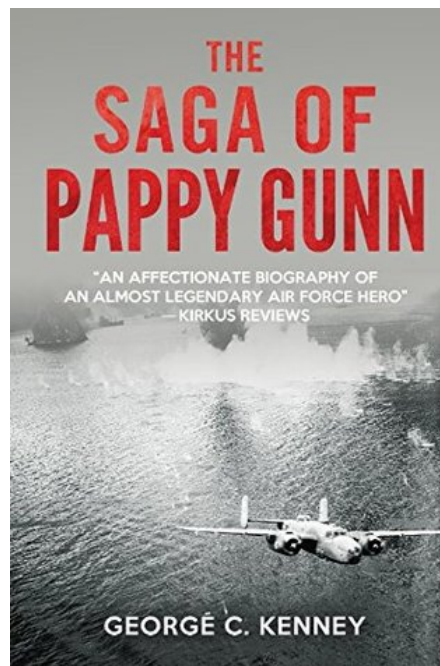




The Saga of Pappy Gunn

George C. Kenney

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“This is the story of an extraordinary character. He was one of the great heroes of the Southwest Pacific in World War II, a mechanical genius, and one of the finest storytellers I have ever known.”

Four-star General Kenney pays tribute to a remarkable man in this biography.

Colonel Paul Irvin (“Pappy”) Gunn was a fearless fighter who demonstrated his qualities of leadership.

To the youngsters fresh from the training fields and untried in air combat he was an example, an inspiration, a confidence builder, and an invaluable man to have around.

As well as a brilliant pilot, Pappy was also a formidable aviation engineer. If any piece of equipment from the airplane itself to any of its hundreds of accessories failed to work, the universal answer was “Pappy can fix it,” and Pappy could and did.

Kenney's book uncovers the remarkable life of Pappy Gunn and his exploits through the Second World War, explaining why many generals, admirals and soldiers acknowledged that he was one of aviation's great pioneers.

‘Pappy Gunn is a loving tribute by the youngest son of one of the United States’ greatest heroes, one that highlights the humanity of a man who was a legend in his own time.’ — *HistoryNet*

‘An affectionate biography of an almost legendary Air Force hero’ — *Kirkus Reviews*

George Churchill Kenney (1889–1977) was a United States Army Air Forces general during World War II. He is best known as the commander of the Allied Air Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area (SWPA), a position he held from August 1942 until 1945. Kenney wrote three books about the SWPA air campaigns he led during World War II. His major work was *General Kenney Reports* (1949), a personal history of the air war he led from 1942 to 1945. He also wrote *The Saga of Pappy Gunn* (1959) and *Dick Bong: Ace of Aces* (1960), which described the careers of Paul Gunn and Richard Bong, two of the most prominent airmen under his command.

The Saga of Pappy Gunn Details

Date : Published May 11th 2017 by Independently published

ISBN : 9781521272541

Author : George C. Kenney

Format : Paperback 103 pages

Genre : History, Biography, War, Military Fiction, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review The Saga of Pappy Gunn for online ebook

Dimitri says

Definitely worth the read

A short but superbly entertaining book about an unforgettable character from the Pacific theater of World War 2. Each chapter presents a new difficulty or experience that "Pappy" approaches in a unique and quirky way. I thoroughly enjoyed this book.

Mark Coffey says

Excellent Narrative

An outstanding biography of an extraordinary man. Highly recommended for anyone interested in the history of the air war in WWII in the South Pacific. The courage and innovation of Pappy Gunn is an inspiration.

Fredrick Perry says

Pappy Gunn

When I first saw this book I could hardly wait to read it. Having read other books by General Kenney, I read this one through. Pappy was a hero that I had read about growing up. General Kenney did not dwell on the mundane details of Gunn's career but gave insight to the real person. As I read through the book I could not help but notice how straightforward Kenney was in his writing. Had the book been released today it would have been ignored because of its lack of political correctness. This was a well written book about an American hero written by another American hero. I enjoyed the book immensely.

Michael Burnam-Fink says

The Saga of Pappy Gunn is a kindly testimonial to a great airman from his commanding officer, General George C. Kenney. "Pappy" Gunn was part of the first class of naval aviators, an enlisted man who became one of the first carrier pilots. He retired from the Navy in 1939, retiring to the Philippines to try his hand at running an air line. He didn't have long to enjoy his retire. World War 2 struck, and Pappy signed up in the Army Air Force. MacArthur's Far East Forces were a world unto their own, and in the desperate defense of the Philippines Pappy coordinated aerial evacuations, repairs, and patrols. His own family was captured and interned, but Pappy managed to bring vital planes and pilots south to Australia.

There he met up with General Kenney, who recognized a man of exceptional talents. Pappy was promoted from wing maintenance officer to head of special projects. He had an uncanny talent for field modification, turning A-20 and B-25 medium bombers into machine-gun bristling strafing ships. These modifications played a key role in the Battle of the Bismark Sea, and became an official B-25 variant. Pappy kept up morale with a string of tall tales and irrepressible energy, despite being a generation older than most of the men he served with.

The story has a bittersweet ending. Pappy was severely wounded during the liberation of the Philippines, and had a difficult recovery. He ran a shoestring airline in the Pacific after the war, dying with his boots on in a plane crash. There are some neat anecdotes here, and it's a lovely memorial, but I can't recommend this book on any literary qualities.

Kellyn Roth says

Wow. Okay, this was a brilliant biography of a brilliant man! So impressed! There were some things about Pappy that were probably overly cocky, but he was still very cool. Definitely someone I'd like to know better!

Brenda Coughenour says

Good read

I like reading about war stories. I can't imagine the hardships that ordinary men and women went through. This book shows a light on how perseverance and toughness can conquer any obstacle.

Hank Hoeft says

The blurb on the cover from Kirkus Reviews says, "An affectionate biography of an almost legendary Air Force hero," but while *The Saga of Pappy Gunn* does indeed cover Paul Gunn's entire life, from his boyhood and the first stirrings of his love of flying, to his death in a flying accident after the end of the War, the book is really more of a memoir of General Kenney's personal acquaintance with Gunn. But having said that, and despite the fact that the book is only 115 pages long, Kenney's account is surprisingly complete. Gunn wasn't just the innovator who took the medium altitude B-25 bomber and turned it into the most devastating attack plane of World War II--the "commerce destroyer" that annihilated Japanese shipping with its massed .50 caliber machine guns and skip bombing tactics. Besides being something of a mechanical genius, Gunn was also one of the first Naval aviators, and apparently one of the best. He had incredible personal courage, and he was as renowned for his tall tale spinning as he was his flying or his innovative engineering. I had long been aware of Paul "Pappy" Gunn's contributions to winning the war in the southwest Pacific, but I was unaware of the other interesting aspects of his life. It is a testament to Gunn's skill, intelligence, and charismatic personality that this biography was written by General George C. Kenney, Gunn's commanding officer and commanding officer of the U.S. Fifth Air Force (and later the first commander of the Strategic Air Command).

Mike Kenefic says

Where do get suchmen

A great telling of one of the most obscure but vastly important men this country ever produced. Don't forget that WWII was a most perilous time for this country and was a bitter, viscous fight for the principles we hold dear. Pappy Gunn was a vastly important cog in that fight. And though anyone alive may not know about

him, those who are familiar with military aviation know him well. A great and courageous man his name is immortal. RIP good sir, your life is inspiring to us all and we remember.

Denis Haskin says

Yeesh. I kept waiting for this to be more than a "he did this, and then he did this, and then he did this, and then he did this other thing, and then...". I'm sure Pappy Gunn was an amazing character, but reading this was like being stuck on a transatlantic plane flight next to someone who wouldn't shut up.

Robert Wilson says

When the book was over I felt that I had met a man of compassion, strength. Carrisma, loyalty, determination

Pappy Gunn was driven to help his real family and his service family and the Japanese gave him the perfect target. This book gave me a delightful insight into a man driven to extremes with his tall tails a humorous outlet for his accomplishments. But there was nothing funny about his desire to hurt the enemy any way that he could; and hurt them he did.

Robert Pinksten says

Well written book, but the subject matter deserves 5-stars. Pappy Gunn seemingly was the most outrageous mechanic/airmen in the Pacific and his outrageous methods were outrageously successful.

100% recommend for anyone into aviation, WW2, or general history.

M. R. Halapatz says

A well-written story of an amazing man.

I chose this title because of my interest in how people meet and cope with adversity. Pappy Gunn's actions in WWII Pacific combat show how one irrepressible and drive helped achieve Allied success in that arena.

Kevin says

What a character. You'll enjoy reading this story of the maverick World War II hero

Robert F. says

If you like the details of how WWII was really won, this book fills in one of the details. There are many unsung heroes and innovators who got only a little notice for what they did at the time and who's memory has been misplaced. This book fills in an important set of details. Pappy Gunn "invented" the 10 gun B-25/PBJ of the Pacific war which accounted for a lot of Japanese surface craft destroyed, thus severely diminishing the ability of the forces of Japan from continuing their resistance, both in the forward operating area and back in the home islands.

Mr. Gunn was a bit quirky which probably held him back a bit from promotion, but his contribution was extensive and it makes for an interesting and enjoyable read.

david p. holmgren says

If you don't know about Pappy Gunn, your military history knowledge is sorely lacking.

...as mine was. I'm a 33 year Marine and Air Force vet -aviator to the core, and I'm ashamed to say I'd never heard of P.I. Gunn until my wife found his biography (Indestructible by John Bruning) at Costco and gave it to me for my birthday. It's a great read as this little book by General Kenney is.

The guy was unstoppable. Probably a total ass- except- he wasn't! Everybody loved him. A retired Navy Chief, enlisted Naval Aviator, thrown into the Pacific war in the Army Air Corps after Pearl Harbor. This book provides a view of his actions and accomplishments from one of his bosses.

The one thing that is sort of glossed over here is the depth of pain and guilt Pappy carried every day over the fact that his family was held prisoner by the Japanese in an internment camp in Manila. It affected him to his soul and is probably chief among the reasons he was such a hardass risk taking maniac. The family's story is another book all by itself (I think it's been written but I haven't yet read it).

Pappy Gunn may have done more to affect the fight in the Pacific than any other one person. Amazing stuff- and this book really adds to it.
