

Customer Reviews of The Promise Kept

Lowell L. Getz reviewed [The Promise Kept: A story of life and death in the 91st Bomb Group \(H\) and in the Eighth...](#)

1 of 1 people found the following helpful

★★★★★ **Promise Kept** September 27, 2012

This is not the typical account of the experiences of a World War II airman. In this book, the author fulfills a promise to his father, S/Sgt Frank Pungercar, that he would put into book form the tapes his father recorded, describing his service as a radio operator in the 8th Air Force. The author uses the exact text of the tapes as the framework for the book. To this, he adds archival records to put in perspective the training of an aerial radio operator and what it was like to fly combat missions. Each of the 30 combat missions S/Sgt Pungercar flew are described in detail, including both his father's own accounts and information from other participants on the mission, as well as records from the National Archives and other historical archives. The author does an excellent job of meshing of the personal remembrances and the archival records. Unrelated combat accounts provided the author by other men who flew in the 8th Air Force give an additional sense of the trauma and terror in the skies over Germany during World War II.

Lynne reviewed [The Promise Kept: A story of life and death in the 91st Bomb Group \(H\) and in the Eighth...](#)

★★★★★ **A promise that was kept** April 18, 2012

"The Promise Kept" was a great reading book! Once I started reading, I found it hard to put down as the story line moves smoothly from historical facts to personal stories of and from the veterans who lived the experiences shared by the author. The photos used enhanced each fact and incident and brought the book to life. I felt like I was living the experiences of the air and ground crews back in WWII. A must read for any history, WWII, B17, or Eighth Air Force buff.

Gordy Alton "[Please remember those who gave so much for the freedom you enjoy each day.](#)" reviewed [The Promise Kept: A story of life and death in the Eighth Air Force and in the 91st Bomb...](#)

1 of 2 people found the following helpful

★★★★★ **Review of "The Promise Kept"** January 31, 2012

A review of the book, "A Promise Kept"

Written by Michael Pungercar

Review by Gordon Alton, author of "Diary of the First Combat Wing"

This book was the fulfillment of a promise Michael made to his father before his father passed on. He promised that he would record his father's experiences gained while the senior Pungercar flew in the air war over Europe during WWII. Initially, it was so that the family would know what he had gone through. He took it one step further than writing a short history for the family, and this book is the result. Not only is this a family record of one man's experiences, it is an excellent historical record about that period in time some seven decades past.

Michael has expanded on his father's personal experiences and interlaced them with a well researched history of the 91st Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force. The "Mighty Eighth", as it

came to be known, was the culmination of the attempt to take the war to the heartland of Nazi Germany. This book covers this period, especially as it pertains to the 91st Bomb Group, in an interesting and gripping read. The research and personal stories are wound together in a very readable format that will keep even the uninitiated interested from start to finish.

"A Promise Kept" covers the history of the 91st as it was formed and dispatched to Europe in late 1942. The 91st was one of the first four groups sent to England as the vanguard of the air war against Hitler. Follow the birth of the air war, to the first unescorted raids when fighters were a menace, up to the latter stages of the air war in 1944 and 1945 when the "Little Friends", the P51 fighters, escorted the bomber groups deep into the German heartland. The background history and facts and figures that have been provided really add to the feeling the reader gets that they are reading history as it happened. Add to this the 100 or more photos of planes, airmen, and bomb missions, and one gets a real feel for the air war as it unfolded.

Michael was lucky enough to interview a number of veterans who chose to share some of their more intimate experiences. He combines the interviews with historical facts and background, and the photos with missions. Not much is left to the imagination. It is all there, and I challenge anyone who has read this book to say they have not come away with a better understanding of what these men had to endure during their time overseas. If you have an interest in WWII, especially as it pertains to the air war over Europe, then buy this book. It belongs in your history collection. Congratulations on a job well done, Michael. You have done your father proud, and kept the promise you made to him, and then some.

[Charlie](#) reviewed [The Promise Kept: A story of life and death in the Eighth Air Force and in the 91st Bomb...](#)

3 of 3 people found the following helpful

★★★★★ **No ordinary people in extraordinary times** January 23, 2012

A good read. Good background information on WWII summarizes how we got there and why (enough info sets the stage particularly for younger readers). Just enough information on the technology of the aircraft at the time to differentiate them from today's electronic wonder machines -- even the cost per B-17! I found it particularly fascinating reading how the groups formed up, the dangers and mishaps involved, and a lot of other nuts and bolts of a bombing raid on fortress Europe. Transcripts of recordings made by Frank Pungercar are central to the telling, although like so many other vets, Frank's telling is matter of fact and modest, eliminating the terror of the situation -- as if describing a day's work in an ordinary job! There are numerous photos in the Kindle edition that add much to the enjoyment of the book. This is a fine tribute to Frank Pungercar and the thousands of men who gave so much to the rest of us!
