

## DOGFIGHT OVER TOKYO

JOHN WUKOVITS


READ BY PETER GANIM

### THE TRAGIC STORY OF THE PILOTS WHO FOUGHT THE LAST FIGHT OF THE WAR DURING THE FIRST HOUR OF PEACE.

When Billy Hobbs and his fellow Hellcat aviators from Air Group 88 lifted off from the venerable Navy carrier USS *Yorktown* (CV-10) early on the morning of August 15, 1945, they had no idea they were about to carry out the final air mission of World War II. Two hours later, *Yorktown* received word from Admiral Nimitz that the war had ended and that all offensive operations should cease. As they were turning back, twenty Japanese planes suddenly dove from the sky above them and began a ferocious attack. Four American pilots never returned—men who had lifted off from the carrier in wartime but were shot down during peacetime.

Drawing on participant letters, diaries, interviews, newspaper and radio accounts, and previously untapped archival records, historian John Wukovits tells the riveting story of Air Group 88's pilots and crew through their eyes in his characteristic edge-of-your-seat style. *Dogfight over Tokyo* is a stirring, one-of-a-kind tale of naval encounters and the last dogfight of the war—a story that is both inspirational and tragic.

**JOHN WUKOVITS**, a military expert specializing in the Pacific theater of World War II, is the author of many books, including *Hell from the Heavens* and *For Crew and Country*. He is a recipient of the prestigious Samuel Eliot Morison Award for Naval Literature for his book *Tin Can Titans*. His numerous articles have appeared in such publications as *WWII History*, *Naval History*, and *World War II*. He lives in Michigan. <http://www.johnwukovits.com>

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