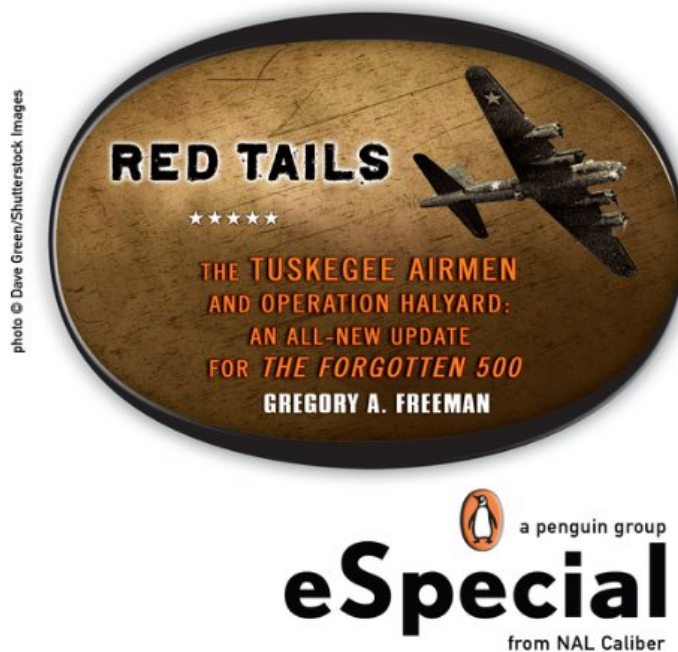


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## Red Tails: The Tuskegee Airmen and Operation Halyard: An All-New Update for The Forgotten 500: A Penguin eSpecial from NAL Caliber

Gregory A. Freeman

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**Gregory A. Freeman : Red Tails: The Tuskegee Airmen and Operation Halyard: An All-New Update for The Forgotten 500: A Penguin eSpecial from NAL Caliber** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Red Tails: The Tuskegee Airmen and Operation Halyard: An All-New Update for The Forgotten 500: A Penguin eSpecial from NAL Caliber:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Forgotten chapter now remembered.By Keith Beasley-TopliffeFreeman wrote The Forgotten 500 in 2007. It told the story of the rescue of more than 500 allied airmen, mostly bomber crews, shot down over Yugoslavia during World War II. After publication, he learned another small piece of the story: that the rescuing cargo planes (C-47s) were escorted by fighters piloted by the Tuskegee Airmen. So he wrote this short ebook to fill in the gap, recapping enough of the book to give this new story context. Probably the new alternative to putting out a second edition, revised and expanded. Nice story, but only about 25% new material.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not greatBy Steph S.Loved the Forgotten 500, but this addition was really disappointing. It was about the length of a chapter in other books, with the beginning and ending a repeat of the original book. I get it, the author had to set it up in the context of the previously-described action, but there were only a few paragraphs after the introduction about the cultural resistance to black fighter pilots at all, the general plight of

black soldiers, usually assigned menial jobs, and the segregation that was continued within the army. The author asserts that the Tuskegee Airmen were "the best of the best", however, so we accept and read on, back to the original plot line of the *Forgotten 500* and the difficulty of setting up the mission. Spoiler Alert: Finally, we get to the Tuskegee Airmen, and a couple of quotes about the gratitude of white bomber crews to the Red Tails. The Tuskegee Airmen were distinguished by the dedication of the fighter pilots who stuck to their posts as escorts and protectors of the bombers, while others abandoned the almost defenseless crews to go off "happy hunting." We get numerous quotes, and one scene to support the bomber pilots' and crews' appreciation for the black fighters when a Tuskegee Airman entered a POW camp, where he was welcomed with open arms because the prisoners were so grateful for the Red Tails' protection, and because he was black, and therefore couldn't be a German spy. These assertions of the Tuskegee Airmen's skill are frequent and repetitive, and not difficult to believe, but stating it over and over, even quoting others' stating it, isn't nearly as convincing as anecdotes or stories. The secrecy of the mission and the official lack of recognition of the Red Tails in general, make the gaping hole of evidence more understandable, but isn't that the point? Historians (and journalists) uncover resources, dig into the minds of soldiers or their kin, and generally have or find support for their theses, or they abandon them. Looking back on this thesis, though, it was only that the Red Tails participated in the evacuation, not that they distinguished themselves. Um, OK. The most disappointing part of the book for me, though, was the end. There is a brief and joking interchange over the radio between the Tuskegee Airmen trying to find the downed bomber crews, and a sighting of a Red Tail from the ground during the operation, and that was that. No more about these gallant men. During the daylight rescue from the mountain, the fighter pilots engaged the nearby German army, while the bombers landed, boarded up the stranded airmen and took off again in the miraculously undetected rescue operation. Somebody on the ground sees one? two? all? Red Tails amongst the fighters, then they took off to attack the nearby Germans, but since the theme so far had been the loyalty, dedication, humility and courage it took to stick with and protect the bombers through everything, rather than abandoning the to rack up kills, I was left in confusion. There was no indication that the Red Tails were headed out to fight this time, no acknowledgement that this flight was different from their escort sojourns, just an acknowledgement before they left that this mission was more dangerous than most because they would be in and over enemy territory. They found their way in, then we are told that "the fighter planes" took off to engage the Germans, while the story continues to follow the bombers and evacuees. Wait, what? That was it. No more mention of the Tuskegee Airmen until the last paragraph (which was about the downed airmen and the skill of the bomber pilots), where they were acknowledged to have been there. The Tuskegee Airmen were an amazing group of men who excelled during the war, breaking in to a world dominated by white men, and demonstrating courage, tenacity, dedication and skill. I don't think that their presence during this mission demonstrates any of that, though, and simply stating that they were there would have accomplished the same thing. The logic seems to be "this was a dangerous mission; the CIA recruited only the best (bomber) pilots to participate; the Tuskegee Airmen participated as (fighter) pilots; ergo, they were the best....0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great follow up, to *The Forgotten 500* book, with the Red Tails cover. By Paulette p This was really a great addition to the book *The Forgotten 500*. This really showed the experience of the Red Tails, the group of soldiers took over to keep the heavy cargo planes safe. They did all the cover work so all the men could get out of Yugoslavia, safely. Without them who knows how all the men could have made it. Great work to them!

A brand-new story about World War II's daring African-American heroes from the author of *The Forgotten 500*. The Tuskegee Airmen were the first African-American pilots in the US military, and Operation Halyard was one of the most extraordinary rescue missions of World War II, described in Gregory Freeman's *The Forgotten 500*. Now a newly discovered connection between them has come to light—the "Red Tails" flew fighter cover for the mission. The remarkable story is revealed here by the author whose work James Bradley calls "amazing [and] riveting."