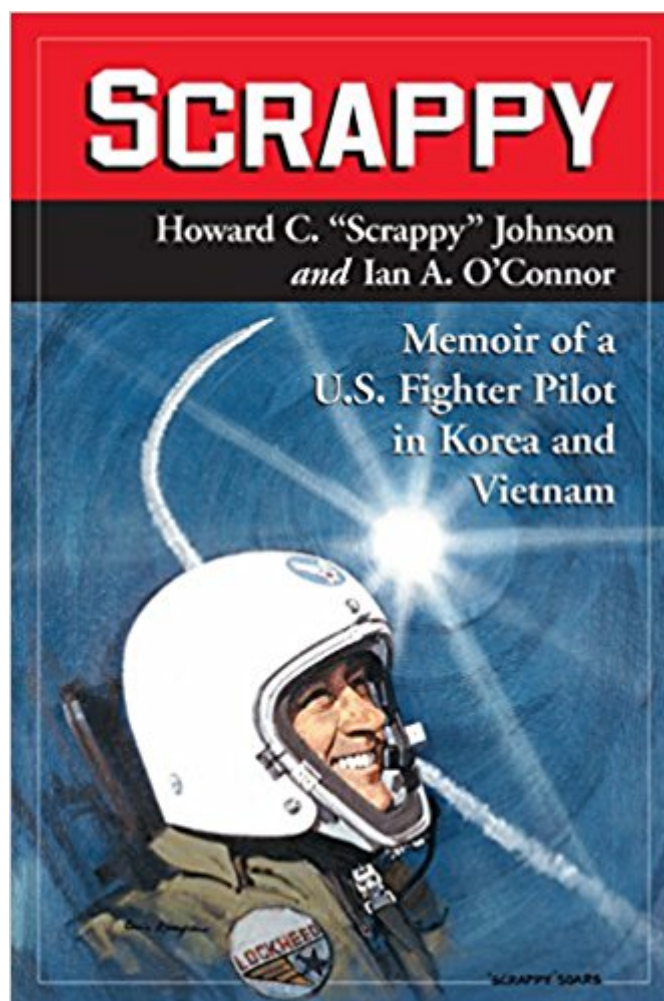


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Scrappy: Memoir Of A U.S. Fighter Pilot In Korea And Vietnam



Synopsis

From World War II to high above the Earth to Vietnam, this memoir tells the story of fighter pilot Howard C. "Scrappy" Johnson. Beginning with his early years in Knoxville, Tennessee, the book follows Johnson through his career at the University of Louisville and his enlistment as an Air Force cadet at the onset of World War II. After World War II, Johnson served a tour of duty in the skies over Korea and in 1958 broke the world's altitude record by over 14,000 feet, soaring at 91,249 feet in his F-104A Starfighter. For this remarkable feat he was awarded the Collier Trophy, aviation's highest honor. In Vietnam, he was director of operations for the 388th Tactical Fighter Wing and was instrumental in founding the Red River Valley Fighter Pilots, a group dedicated to the remembrance of fallen and captured airmen. Written with panache, this work records the bigger-than-life adventures of one of America's finest.

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Customer Reviews

Howard C. "Scrappy" Johnson was one of the Deputy Commanders for Operations of the 507th

Fighter Wing at Kincheloe AFB, Michigan during the time I was there. He was a living legend and I knew part of his story, but not all of it. This book made me laugh a lot, cry a little and enlightened me far more than I expected. Like his predecessor, Colonel Robert J. "Shorty" Rankin, Scrappy was a man of relatively few words who had been there and done that more than I could have ever imagined back in 1967. Had I known more about him I would have been in awe of him. I donate or sell a lot of the books I have read, but this one isn't for sale. Like Robin Olds' "Fighter Pilot," or Jack Broughton's "Thud Ridge" or any of the Mark Berent novels of the air war in Southeast Asia, it is a classic and I will keep it as long as I have a place to put it. The book was in brand-new condition, with an autograph from the author. (Not to me, unfortunately, but I'll still keep it.) I was in Korea when I ordered it and was delighted to find it waiting for me when I returned home.

Was a pretty good read until he started blowing his own horn about forming the River Rats Association.

I was a B-52 Pilot with hundreds of missions over Vietnam but always wanted to be a Fighter Pilot and admire the likes of Scrappy. Scrappy was what we refer to as a pilot's pilot who was the best at what he did as witnessed by the fact that he was awarded the prestigious Collier Trophy. This book is an excellent account of Scrappy's travels through the annals of his aviation career and I agree with most of the reviews here with one notable exception and that would be the three star one written by Michael Carden, if that's his name. Seems Mr Carden takes issue with the boozing and sex in the book and doesn't think it should be read to kids and grand kids. To Mr Carden I submit this: It is very understandable how being shot at by bullets and missiles on a daily basis could make a relaxing drink very appealing not to mention the camaraderie enhancing effects absolutely necessary in a cohesive combat unit. As for the sex it appears that more sex has happened in the White House than in Scrappy's book and finally: I doubt very seriously if Scrappy intended his book to be used as bedtime reading material.

Great flying combat text but far too much boozing and o-club hi jinks . He is a genuine hero to many.

One of the most enjoyable memoirs I have ever read. With an Air Force career spanning 30 years there is plenty of good stories with different generation airplanes/flying as background. Highly recommended.

But, who writes about failures. Scrappy, as well as Broughton and Pisanos survived the politics to advance far in the Air Force. What did they have in common? They all can write.

This book is somewhat interesting but it really amounts to a few sessions with Scrappy at the bar as he tries to recollect what he seems to think are interesting stories. Some are. A great many are just "we got drunk and here's what we did" stories that would at best invoke a yawn from any reader who has so much as gone away to college. There is not much detail here if you like "flying" books. Maybe collectively you might have something, but you'll have to plow through a great deal of irrelevant material to get to it all. Otherwise, it is just another ego trip from someone that has certainly done interesting things, but is it REALLY worth a book or did he just see that his comrades were writing them too? Contrast that with Robin Olds, who kept memoirs and whose book is rich in detail and very well organized. If you are going to pick one, read Olds' book. Scrappy was an interesting character of course, but I don't have time to read every book by every character in the world.

Her Father is in a couple chapters, I read it before letting her have it. My Father was one of those Canadian F86 guys Scrappy flew through, but my Dad's accounts differ slightly

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