

worn with
Pride



SOME WERE ACTUALLY WORN in the icy, flak-riddled sky on missions over enemy territory. Others were strictly for looks, worn only on solid ground. But the painted bomber jackets sported by World War II's American flyers were always worn with pride—pride in a plane, pride in a squadron or group, and pride in defying death as a flying member of the US Army Air Force.

Eighth Army Air Force flyers were colorful characters—right down to their jackets. Above, left: The 398th Bomb Group crest, painted on the jacket of First Lieutenant Robert C. Galloway. Above, center: Sergeant Clyde Baptist of the 398th's 602nd Bomb Squadron wore its Disney-themed patch on his jacket. Above, right: Galloway's jacket also featured the little devil of his 608th Bomb Squadron.

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"Heaven Sent"

The A-2 flight jacket of bombardier Fred Schmidt, 350th Bomb Squadron, 100th Bomb Group. Painted by a fellow crewman after an Alberto Vargas pinup. The bombs represented missions flown.