



Arab MiGs. Volume 5: October 1973 War, Part 1

Tom Cooper, David Nicolle, Holger Müller, Lon Nordeen, Martin Smisek

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On 6 October 1973, the Egyptian and Syrian air arms opened an Arab attack on Israeli military installations on the Sinai Peninsula and in the Golan Heights. Thus began a war for recovery of territories lost to Israel during the June 1967 War, but also a war that was intended to repair damaged military and national pride, and a war that was to bring Israel back to the negotiating table. For the Israelis, who grossly underrated the capabilities of their enemies, it was a war that started with a surprise and alarming losses in men and material, and was characterized by the deployment of advanced electronics, computers and guided missiles. For the Arabs it was a war of revenge, in the best traditions of 'guts and glory'. During the first few days of the war, the Arab air arms supported Egyptian infantry that stormed through the Bar Lev Line and Syrian mechanized forces that pushed into the Golan plateau. Egyptian and Syrian air defense forces inflicted unprecedented attrition upon the Israeli Air Force, denying it the ability to exercise aerial dominance and thus preventing it from playing a decisive role in the conflict. Gradually, the Israelis recovered from the initial blows, and their air force began exerting considerable pressure upon Syria. Undeterred, and reinforced by the Iraqi Air Force, the Egyptians and Syrians continued to hit back, turning the war into another slugging match of attrition. Clearly written and illustrated with a rich and unique collection of exclusive photography and original illustrations, Arab MiGs Volume 5 provides a detailed record of aerial warfare during the opening phases of the October 1973 Arab-Israeli conflict. Drawing on extensive research, declassified information, and interviews with dozens of participants, it recounts the origins, operational history, and battle performance of all the air forces involved. While emphasizing the Arab point of view, Arab MiGs Volume 5 goes well beyond standard histories to offer suppressed information and a plethora of new insights, well away from the bias and distortions of both sides. As such, it is the first comprehensive analysis of the aerial operations waged by both sides in this conflict.

REVIEWS

Harpia Publishing's brilliant Arab MiGs series remains among aviation history's most vital – and vibrant – research quests. And newly released Volume 5 categorically confirms that...over 50 of co-author Cooper's unfailingly excellent color profiles — many with corresponding dorsal schemes and paint matches — superbly sample the sumptuous swath of Arab warplane camouflage...Robustly recommended! Cyber Modeler

"...heavily illustrated series featuring a veritable encyclopedia of facts and history. Photos and art reproduction in the series are first rate, as are the maps that hep readers pinpoint the numerous airfields by used by Arab and Israeli squadrons..."

Aviation History September 2015

"... covers but the first several days of the conflict with the rest coming in a later volume. As in the previous works, there is an opening errata section that provides more information and sometimes some more photos to help clarify what was published previously. The authors freely admit that getting information out of all the combatants is difficult and there are gaps. Fortunately, by gleaning information from a number of sources,

including individuals that participated, it is possible to get a fairly good picture of the situation as it unfolded. One of the things that has come forth from all these volumes is how much the IDF exaggerated the facts. Many times pilots are provided aerial victories in the dozens when only one or two Arab planes were lost. Conversely, they often state losses as having come from ground fire/missiles when in reality many were air to air losses. This is all part of their policy to make the Arab military forces appear to be inept, when the reality is often quite different. The benefit of books like this is that they offer a balance to what has become widely accepted. I've gotten the feeling that the authors are not biased one way or the other and should be commended on the information they have been able to uncover... not only provides a complete look at the build-up to war, but also the various missions flown over the two fronts; the Sinai and the Golan Heights. There are considerable 'I was there' stories as well as some most welcome photographs. A number of informative tables and indices are also provided for the enthusiast and the history buff. This is not just a rehash of what has gone before, but a considerable amount of primary research. Modelers will appreciate the camouflage information provided as well as the many pages of color profiles....not a quick read and I do apologize to Casemate for it taking so long to review, but I read the books I review, for to do less is not fair to the authors. It is a book that I highly recommend to those interested in the topic and with open minds. Once you read one volume in this series, you will want to read them all.

Modeling Madness

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