

In compiling this list of aces who flew with the US Air Force and its predecessor organizations (the Air Service and the Army Air Forces), *Air Force Magazine* has relied on USAF's official accounting of aerial victory credits, which is the responsibility of the Air Force Historical Research Agency at Maxwell AFB, Ala.

Air Force historians have kept the official records of aerial victories by USAF pilots and crew members since 1957. A few foreign pilots are also listed. Most aerial victory credits have been earned by fighter pilots who

have destroyed enemy aircraft in the air. The Office of the Air Force Historian had previously published four separate listings—one for each of the major wars (World War I, World War II, Korea, and Vietnam). The four volumes have been corrected, updated, and combined into one comprehensive volume.

The Air Force Historical Research Agency is not authorized, nor has it ever attempted, to verify aerial victories claimed by Americans who flew with the air forces of other nations. Therefore, this list no longer con-

tains World War I victory credits for Americans serving in the Lafayette Escadrille, French Flying Corps, Royal Flying Corps, or Royal Navy. Similarly, it no longer contains World War II victory credits for Americans in the Eagle Squadrons or the Flying Tigers (American Volunteer Group). However, victories were awarded to members of the Army Air Service if they were flying with British or French units when they shot down enemy aircraft. Some World War I pilots (notably Frank Luke) were credited with victories for destroying balloons.

American Aces of World War I



Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker

Rickenbacker, Capt. Edward V.	24.33	Wright, 1st Lt. Chester E.	6.33
Luke, 2d Lt. Frank, Jr.	15.83	Jones, 2d Lt. Clinton	6.16
Kindley, 1st Lt. Field E.	11.00	Burdick, 2d Lt. Howard	6.00
Springs, 1st Lt. Elliott W.	10.75	Chambers, 1st Lt. Reed M.	6.00
Landis, 1st Lt. Reed G.	10.00	Creech, 1st Lt. Jesse O.	6.00
Vaughn, 1st Lt. George A.	9.50	Putnam, 1st Lt. David E.	6.00
Swaab, 1st Lt. Jacques M.	8.50	Cook, 1st Lt. Harvey W.	5.66
Donaldson, 2d Lt. John O.	8.00	Meissner, Capt. James A.	5.66
Baer, 1st Lt. Paul P.	7.75	Coolidge, Capt. Hamilton	5.58
Clay, 1st Lt. Henry R., Jr.	7.00	Campbell, 1st Lt. Douglas	5.50
Hamilton, 1st Lt. Lloyd A.	6.83	Knotts, 2d Lt. Howard C.	5.50
White, 2d Lt. Wilbert W.	6.66	Rummell, 1st Lt. Leslie J.	5.16
Cassady, 1st Lt. Thomas G.	6.63	Bissell, 1st Lt. Clayton L.	5.00
Holden, 1st Lt. Lansing C.	6.50	Luff, 1st Lt. Frederick E.	5.00
Hunter, 1st Lt. Frank O'D.	6.50	Ponder, 2d Lt. William T.	5.00
Stenseth, 1st Lt. Martinus	6.47		

Some Famous US Fighter Firsts



Col. Robin Olds

May 30, 1918	First US-trained AEF ace: Capt. Edward V. Rickenbacker
Dec. 7, 1941	First AAF victories of WW II: Six pilots at Pearl Harbor
Dec. 16, 1941	First AAF ace of WW II: 1st Lt. Boyd D. Wagner
June 27, 1950	First USAF victories in the Korean War
Nov. 8, 1950	First jet-to-jet victory of the Korean War
May 20, 1951	First USAF ace of the Korean War: Capt. James Jabara
Nov. 30, 1951	First USAF ace of two wars (WW II and Korea): Maj. George A. Davis, Jr. (7 in WW II and 14 in Korea)
Jan. 2, 1967	First (and only) USAF ace with victories in WW II and Vietnam: Col. Robin Olds (12 in WW II and 4 in Vietnam)

Leading Army Air Forces Aces of World War II

(Fourteen and a half or more victories)

Bong, Maj. Richard I.	40	Herbst, Lt. Col. John C.	18
McGuire, Maj. Thomas B., Jr.	38	Zemke, Lt. Col. Hubert	17.75
Gabreski, Lt. Col. Francis S.	28*	England, Maj. John B.	17.50
Johnson, Capt. Robert S.	27	Beeson, Capt. Duane W.	17.33
MacDonald, Col. Charles H.	27	Thornell, 1st Lt. John F., Jr.	17.25
Preddy, Maj. George E.	26.83	Varnell, Capt. James S., Jr.	17
Meyer, Lt. Col. John C.	24*	Johnson, Maj. Gerald W.	16.50
Schilling, Col. David C.	22.50	Godfrey, Capt. John T.	16.33
Johnson, Lt. Col. Gerald R.	22	Anderson, Capt. Clarence E., Jr.	16.25
Kearby, Col. Neel E.	22	Dunham, Lt. Col. William D.	16
Robbins, Maj. Jay T.	22	Harris, Lt. Col. Bill	16
Christensen, Capt. Fred J.	21.50	Welch, Capt. George S.	16
Wetmore, Capt. Ray S.	21.25	Beerbower, Capt. Donald M.	15.50
Voll, Capt. John J.	21	Brown, Maj. Samuel J.	15.50
Mahurin, Maj. Walker M.	20.75*	Peterson, Capt. Richard A.	15.50
Lynch, Lt. Col. Thomas J.	20	Whisner, Capt. William T., Jr.	15.50*
Westbrook, Lt. Col. Robert B.	20	Bradley, Lt. Col. Jack T.	15
Gentile, Capt. Donald S.	19.83	Cragg, Maj. Edward	15
Duncan, Col. Glenn E.	19.50	Foy, Maj. Robert W.	15
Carson, Capt. Leonard K.	18.50	Hofer, 2d Lt. Ralph K.	15
Eagleston, Maj. Glenn T.	18.50*	Homer, Capt. Cyril F.	15
Beckham, Maj. Walter C.	18	Landers, Lt. Col. John D.	14.50
Green, Maj. Herschel H.	18	Powers, Capt. Joe H., Jr.	14.50



Maj. Richard I. Bong

Ranks are as of last victory in World War II.

*Aces who added to these scores by victories in the Korean War

Leading Air Service/AAF/USAF Aces of All Wars

Bong, Maj. Richard I.	40	WW II
McGuire, Maj. Thomas B., Jr.	38	WW II
Gabreski, Col. Francis S.	34.50	WW II, Korea
Johnson, Lt. Col. Robert S.	27	WW II
MacDonald, Col. Charles H.	27	WW II
Preddy, Maj. George E.	26.83	WW II
Meyer, Col. John C.	26	WW II, Korea
Rickenbacker, Capt. Edward V.	24.33	WW I
Mahurin, Col. Walker M.	24.25	WW II, Korea
Schilling, Col. David C.	22.50	WW II
Johnson, Lt. Col. Gerald R.	22	WW II
Kearby, Col. Neel E.	22	WW II
Robbins, Maj. Jay T.	22	WW II
Christensen, Capt. Fred J.	21.50	WW II
Wetmore, Capt. Ray S.	21.25	WW II
Davis, Maj. George A., Jr.	21	WW II, Korea
Voll, Capt. John J.	21	WW II
Whisner, Capt. William T., Jr.	21	WW II, Korea
Eagleston, Col. Glenn T.	20.50	WW II, Korea
Lynch, Lt. Col. Thomas J.	20	WW II
Westbrook, Lt. Col. Robert B.	20	WW II
Gentile, Capt. Donald S.	19.83	WW II



Col. Francis S. Gabreski

AAF/USAF Aces With Victories in Both World War II and a Later War

	WW II	Other ^a	Total
Gabreski, Col. Francis S.	28	6.50	34.50
Meyer, Col. John C.	24	2	26
Mahurin, Col. Walker M.	20.75	3.50	24.25
Davis, Maj. George A., Jr.	7	14	21
Whisner, Maj. William T., Jr.	15.50	5.50	21
Eagleston, Col. Glenn T.	18.50	2	20.50
Garrison, Lt. Col. Vermont	7.33	10	17.33
Baker, Col. Royal N.	3.50	13	16.50
Jabara, Maj. James	1.50	15	16.50
Olds, Col. Robin	12	4 ^a	16
Mitchell, Col. John W.	11	4	15
Brueland, Maj. Lowell K.	12.50	2	14.50
Hagerstrom, Maj. James P.	6	8.50	14.50
Hovde, Lt. Col. William J.	10.50	1	11.50
Johnson, Col. James K.	1	10	11
Ruddell, Lt. Col. George I.	2.50	8	10.50
Thyng, Col. Harrison R.	5	5	10
Colman, Capt. Philip E.	5	4	9
Heller, Lt. Col. Edwin L.	5.50	3.50	9
Chandler, Maj. Van E.	5	3	8
Hockery, Maj. John J.	7	1	8
Creighton, Maj. Richard D.	2	5	7
Emmert, Lt. Col. Benjamin H., Jr.	6	1	7
Bettinger, Maj. Stephen L.	1	5	6
Visscher, Maj. Herman W.	5	1	6
Liles, Capt. Brooks J.	1	4	5
Mattson, Capt. Conrad E.	1	4	5
Schaeffer, Maj. William F.	2	3	5

^aColonel Olds's four additional victories came during the Vietnam War; all others' during the Korean War.



Maj. James Jabara

USAF Aces of the Korean War

McConnell, Capt. Joseph, Jr.	16
Jabara, Maj. James	15 ^a
Fernandez, Capt. Manuel J.	14.50
Davis, Maj. George A., Jr.	14 ^a
Baker, Col. Royal N.	13 ^a
Blesse, Maj. Frederick C.	10
Fischer, 1st Lt. Harold E.	10
Garrison, Lt. Col. Vermont	10 ^a
Johnson, Col. James K.	10 ^a
Moore, Capt. Lonnie R.	10
Parr, Capt. Ralph S., Jr.	10
Foster, Capt. Cecil G.	9
Low, 1st Lt. James F.	9
Hagerstrom, Maj. James P.	8.50 ^a
Risner, Capt. Robinson	8
Ruddell, Lt. Col. George I.	8 ^a
Buttleman, 1st Lt. Henry	7
Jolley, Capt. Clifford D.	7
Lilley, Capt. Leonard W.	7
Adams, Maj. Donald E.	6.50
Gabreski, Col. Francis S.	6.50 ^a
Jones, Lt. Col. George L.	6.50
Marshall, Maj. Winton W.	6.50
Kasler, 1st Lt. James H.	6
Love, Capt. Robert J.	6
Whisner, Maj. William T., Jr.	5.50 ^a
Baldwin, Col. Robert P.	5
Becker, Capt. Richard S.	5
Bettinger, Maj. Stephen L.	5
Creighton, Maj. Richard D.	5 ^a
Curtin, Capt. Clyde A.	5
Gibson, Capt. Ralph D.	5
Kincheloe, Capt. Iven C., Jr.	5
Latshaw, Capt. Robert T., Jr.	5
Moore, Capt. Robert H.	5
Overton, Capt. Dolphin D., III	5
Thyng, Col. Harrison R.	5 ^a
Westcott, Maj. William H.	5

^aIn addition to World War II victories



Cpts. Charles B. DeBellevue and Richard S. Ritchie

USAF Aces of the Vietnam War

DeBellevue, Capt. Charles B.	6
Feinstein, Capt. Jeffrey S.	5
Ritchie, Capt. Richard S.	5