

Never Lark nor Eagle: A Fighter Pilot's Story

A Novel by Ray Castagnaro

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Volume I



A Novel
by
Ray Castagnaro

Historical fiction about the career of a fighter pilot and his family, spanning 1938 to 1958. 16 year old crop duster Carl Morro is adopted by the Wilcox family of rural Kentucky. With his adoptive brother, Freddy, Morro joins other American pilots in Britain's Royal Air Force in 1940, transitioning to the US Army Air Force when America enters the war. The reader witnesses an accurate history of air warfare and weapons development through the fictional career of a man who helped develop them and their tactics from pre-WWII through Korea and the 1950s.

The novel is available in two volumes from this book store, in both hard cover and paperback!



The Author

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The author in the cockpit of a P-51D Mustang



Never Lark nor Eagle: A Fighter Pilot's Story

Volume II



A Novel
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Ray Castagnaro

Continuation of the fictional career of fighter pilot Carl "Bing" Morro and his family, from 1958 through 1978. Col Carl Morro, now a veteran of combat in WWII and Korea, as well as of dangerous test pilot flying and espionage in Southeast Asia, returns to his roots, and to aerial combat in Vietnam, to face an undeniable truth. The reader continues to witness the true stories behind today's aeronautical wonder weapons through the fictional eyes of a man who helped develop them and their tactics from the early supersonic era through the Vietnam conflict.

More detailed notes about the work...

Never Lark nor Eagle: A Fighter Pilot's Story

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Never Lark nor Eagle: A Fighter Pilot's Story, is historical fiction about the career of USAF fighter pilot Carl "Bing" Morro and his adoptive family, spanning the years 1938 to 1978. The tale, epic in proportion, was too extensive to fit into one 600 page volume.

Col Dean R. Hess, USAF (Ret), the prizewinning author of *Battle Hymn*, read an earlier version of the manuscript and was delighted with its realism, historical accuracy, exciting aerial action, and humor. Col. Hess flew Air Force fighters in both World War II and Korea, and has attested to the credibility of the book's chapters spanning those two periods, which are coincident with his own career. The same manuscript was also reviewed by the late Lt Gen Chesley Peterson, USAF (Ret), who was astounded over how a child of the 1950s through 70s could have "gotten" what it was like to have flown the P-51 Mustang and the F-86 Sabrejet in combat. Both men are depicted or mentioned briefly in the story as a tribute.

My research took over twelve years, including my six years flying the Air Force F-4E Phantom II fighter. The investigative work for all aspects of the story is consistent in its attention to detail and accuracy, and has involved my operational flying with Vietnam era fighter pilots, as well as interviews with veterans from World War II and Korea. This has afforded a realism simply not attainable by "non-participatory research." As they say: I have walked the walk.

I believe my novel will appeal to educated readers with an interest in history as well as to others who have simply lived through the periods depicted in the story. The attention garnered by news coverage of the Gulf War and the current War on Terrorism (as well as the success of A&E and The History and Discovery channels) reveals a public captivated with the tactical air weapons of the modern battlefield. *Never Lark nor Eagle* provides a fascinating story that traces the etymology of some of today's aeronautical wonder weapons, through the fictional career of a man who helped develop them and their tactics.

The substories within the novel are all true. I have woven them together within the fabric of one fictional family's story to bring them to light.

Please enjoy the novel. I look forward to hearing from readers.

Ray Castagnaro

About the Author



Raymond J. Castagnaro was born in New York City, grew up in Levittown, Long Island, and graduated from Rutgers University and its Air Force ROTC program in 1978. He served six years of active duty in the Air Force flying F-4E Phantom II fighters, then transferred to the North Carolina Air National Guard as an Air Liaison Officer/Forward Air Controller, supporting various tank and infantry units of the North Carolina and Georgia National Guard and elements of the XVIIIth Airborne Corps. He is currently an Air Force Reserve Lieutenant Colonel and lives near Dallas, Texas, USA.

Triumph, tragedy, love, war, revenge, deliverance. ...