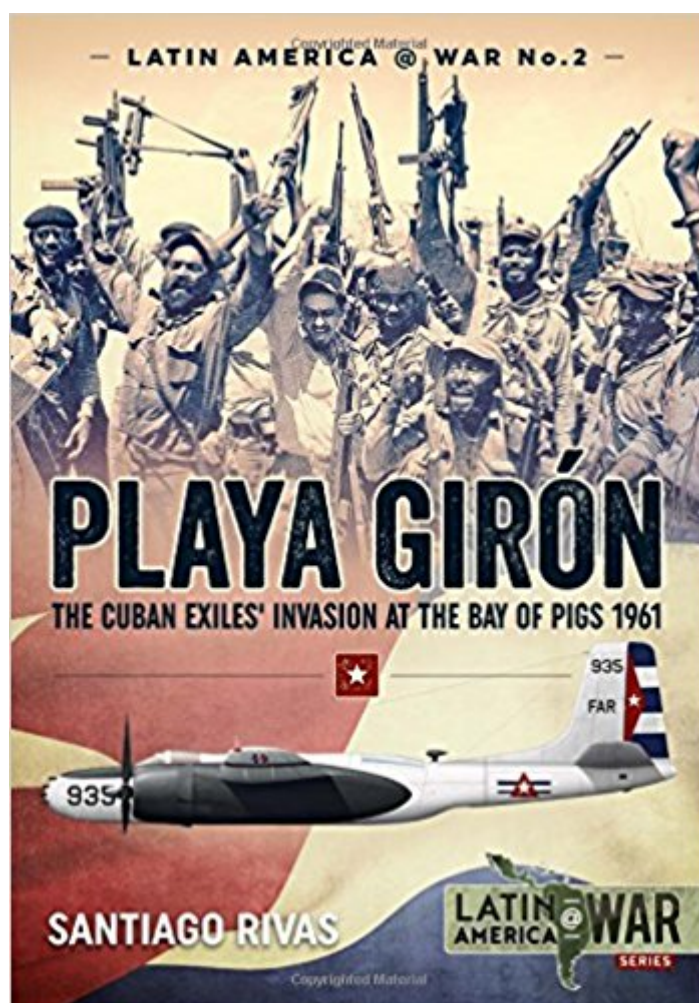


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Playa Girón: The Cuban Exiles' Invasion At The Bay Of Pigs 1961 (Latin America @ War)



Synopsis

In 1961 - two years after a revolution in Cuba overran the government of Fulgencio Batista - a group of Cuban exiles (backed by the CIA) landed on the beaches of the Bay of Pigs in an attempt to overthrow Fidel Castro from the new government. After three days of intense fighting on the beaches and swamps around the area, the invaders were defeated by Castro's forces and most of them surrendered, while a few managed to escape to the ships. Failures in the plans developed by the CIA and the lack of decision by the Kennedy administration were decisive in a fiasco that became one of the most shameful defeats by a US-backed operation in the 20th century. Among the forces that defended the Cuban Revolution, the Revolutionary Air Force played a key role - despite their lack of operational planes and pilots - sinking the main transport ships of the expeditionary force and forcing the others to leave, while abandoning the invading force on the beaches until they ran out of ammunition. Also, they won the control of the air space over the area - denying their use to the A-26 Invaders of the exiles - and thus leaving the ground forces with no close air support. The exiles fought remarkably against a much more powerful enemy and even won the first round of combat, but the lack of support left them with no ammunition or food, while the enemy forces thrown against them grew more and more as the hours since the landing passed by. In the end, they ran out of ammunition and had to surrender. After more than 50 years, much was written about the invasion, but only ever showing one side of the coin - told by veterans or historians from the Castro side their part of the story (and being highly subjective in the process). This book attempts to show the full picture from an objective point of view - gathering information from some of the few veterans still alive and from information both previously published and never published before.

Book Information

Series: Latin America @ War (Book 2)

Paperback: 88 pages

Publisher: Helion and Company (February 22, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1911096028

ISBN-13: 978-1911096023

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 0.2 x 11.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: Be the first to review this item

Best Sellers Rank: #561,348 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in Books > History > Military > Weapons & Warfare > Conventional > Armored Vehicles #172 in Books > History > Americas > Caribbean & West Indies > Cuba #363 in Books > History > Military > Vehicles

Customer Reviews

“Rivas thoroughly mines his sources – including participants’ memoirs – for fascinating nuggets | Helion’s handy history superbly summarizes the ignominious effort. Make it your introduction to this Cold War debacle. Robustly recommended! • (CyberModeler) If you would like to know more about this historic event of the Cold War, then this is an excellent choice. Interesting for the historian and the modeller and in a good value book as well. • (Military Model Scene) “The young author has interviewed surviving members of the exiles that participated at Bay of Pigs while also attempting to find photographic images – something very, very hard to do. He has thus assembled a credible text with numerous photos, maps, and color profiles to recreate what it must have been like to storm those beaches over five decades ago | Historians and modelers alike will certainly enjoy this volume. • (Air Classics) “Another great book in this series which presents the military historian with something that breaks the usual mould. • (Military Modelling.com)

Santiago Rivas was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 1977. Twenty years later, the Journalism graduate started to work in the fields of aviation and defence journalism - travelling all across Latin America to conduct his research for articles and books.

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