I looked forward to reading this book when I first saw it. Now, the best I can say is that it isn't very good. Dr. Sion is Professor of Astronomy and Astrophysics at Villanova University specializing in white dwarf stars, cataclysmic variable stars, and theoretical accretion physics. The book jacket states, "As a whole, Through Blue Skies to Hell provides a uniquely informed perspective on a singular campaign in military history." I assume Sion is a superb astronomer, but how that background gives him a "uniquely informed perspective" is beyond me.

The book's major problem is that Sion seemingly never figured out what he wanted to write about. The 100th Bomb Group? A history of the air war in Europe? The European war in general? Technology used in World War II in the air? It is a mishmash of topics that wanders through all of these topics. The book is certainly not the story of the Bloody 100th. Sion's uncle, Dick Ayesh, was a bombardier in the 349th Bomb Squadron, 100th Bomb Group, and wrote a diary that covered his 34 combat missions from October 1944 through March 1945. So, the nephew read a lot of books and articles and melded the information with his uncle's diary. In some cases, topics are applicable to 100th operations and, in other cases, just don't add to the story of this famous unit.

The book's first 12 pages cover a bit of Ayesh's early life, his training to be a bombardier, and a description of the...
Bloody 10 by Sion, Edward M. Paperback. £7.49. Free postage.  
item 2 Through Blue Skies to Hell - Through Blue Skies to Hell. £6.20. Free postage.  
item 5 Through Blue Skies to Hell: America's "Bloody 100th" in the Air War Over Germany - Through Blue Skies to Hell: America's "Bloody 100th" in the Air War Over Germany. £12.05. Free postage.

This book provides a comprehensive look at the air war over Europe during the climactic year of World War II, combining first-hand experience with expert analysis. The centerpiece of the work is a mission-by-mission diary of 1st Lieutenant Richard R. Product Identifiers. Product guide for THROUGH BLUE SKIES TO HELL: America's "Bloody 100th" in the Air War over Germany. This book provides a comprehensive look at air war over Europe during the climactic year of World War II, combining firsthand experience with expert analysis. The centerpiece is a mission-by-mission diary of 1st Lieutenant Richard R Ayesh, bombardier on a B-17 Flying Fortress, who flew with the 100th Bombardment Group, 13th Combat Wing of the 8th. Air Force—the legendary "Bloody 100th." He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Croix de Guerre and the Air Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, amongst others.

The Eighth Air Force's 100th Bomb Group earned its nickname the hard way in the brutal skies over Germany. Only one World War II U.S. Army Air Forces tail flash survives in the present-day U.S. Air Force: the Square D. Seventy-five years ago, on June 25, 1943, the 100th Bombardment Group (Heavy) first wore that emblem into battle. The 100th was constituted as a heavy bomber group inside the Eighth Air Force, which, at peak strength on D-Day, June 6, 1944, fielded 40 groups of Boeing B-17s and Consolidated B-24s. The 100th's tail marking of a bold "D" on a square background was rendered on the This book provides a comprehensive look at air war over Europe during the climactic year of World War II, combining firsthand experience with expert analysis. The centerpiece is a mission-by-mission diary of 1st Lieutenant Richard R. Ayesh, bombardier on a B-17 Flying Fortress, who flew with the 100th Bombardment Group, 13th Combat Wing of the 8th Air Force—the legendary "Bloody 100th." He received the Distinguished Flying Cross, Croix de Guerre and the Air Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, amongst others. This book follows Ayesh's progress from his youth during the Great Depression in Wichita, Kansas, which was rapidly becoming the air capital of the nation, to his arrival in England as a Lieutenant in a bomber crew assigned to assault the Third Reich.