CHIEF OF AIR FORCE

CHIEF OF AIR FORCE’S READING LIST 2012

Air Marshal Geoff Brown, AO
26 September 2012
Preface

*Intellectual growth should begin at birth and cease only at death.*

Albert Einstein¹

This is the Chief of Air Force’s Reading List for 2012. It builds on previous reading lists by providing a wide reference of books that showcase air power history and development. This year’s list is a somewhat eclectic collection, and takes advantage of digital media formats to provide alternative means for you to obtain and enjoy these works. It is the Air Power Development Centre’s intent to provide you with as many digital sources as possible to cater for a wide range of reading preferences, however, this has not been possible for a number of the more ‘classic’ works recommended. Books available in digital formats are designated with the e symbol. You will also note that the list includes a few books that may in fact prove quite challenging to locate. While it is regrettable that these books might be hard to find, we feel that this does not diminish their value, nor our enthusiasm to recommend them to you; a good book is a good book, and if it is worth reading, it should be worth tracking down to do so.

Like previous years, the 2012 list has two main sections. The first contains a new list of 24 books grouped into seven categories covering, amongst other things: concepts; strategy and doctrine; air power issues; command and leadership; history; biographies and memoirs; and for the first time a selection of fiction. The second section contains a list of enduring works that should form the foundation of a professional library for every Royal Australian Air Force member, as well as those in the broader community with an interest in military aviation. There is also a third section with details of the 2011 and 2010 reading lists.

We are grateful to the individuals who either supplied the books or wrote to tell us their thoughts on what should be considered for inclusion. Finally, we would gladly welcome any suggestions for future inclusions and improvements for the 2013 reading list.

Mark Hinchcliffe
Group Captain
Director, Air Power Development Centre

September 2012

Foreword

In the case of good books, the point is not to see how many of them you can get through, but how many can get through to you.

Mortimer Jerome Adler

Welcome to the 2012 Chief of Air Force Reading List. This year’s list continues my goal to improve the professional mastery of every member of the Royal Australian Air Force. The books are a targeted selection covering military concepts, air power issues, leadership, and chronicles of people and events that have shaped our history. As the second oldest air force in the world we have developed a solid foundation of air power experience, but resting on our laurels is not sufficient to meet the challenges that lay before us.

While our region is relatively stable, we live in a world characterised by financial constraints and rapidly developing political conflicts. History has shown that stability is a fragile commodity. A security environment can rapidly, and without forewarning, transition from a state of relative peace and calm into a violent state of turmoil, threatening the essential preconditions of our way of life. Analysing lessons from the books in this years’ list can prepare us to meet challenges that we cannot yet image.

The Air Force is in the midst of a generational shift in capabilities, incorporating leading-edge technologies that will demand changes to our established tactics and procedures. Change is not new to the RAAF with many new capabilities developed during wartime in the mist of combat operations, in circumstances described in many of the books from this year’s list.

Arguably, there is nothing new in history, just a different context; our challenge is to understand the context and adapt our air power to meet whatever situation we find ourselves in. Professional mastery is the key to our ability to respond to future challenges and books such as on this year’s list are key ingredients to the continued development of that mastery.

My aim is not that you read every book on this list – though that is a commendable goal. Reading widely, even challenging viewpoints you may disagree with, enhances your individual development which positively benefits your professional military development. The books on this list are to promote thinking about air power and provoke considered discussion around some of the issues raised.

I challenge you to open just one of the books on the 2012 CAF Reading List today.

G. C. Brown, AO
Air Marshal
Chief of Air Force
September 2012
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Chief of Air Force’s Reading List 2012

Section One: The 2012 List

Air Power Concepts, Strategy and Doctrine

Conceptualising Modern War: A Critical Enquiry
Karl Erik Haug and Ole Jorgen Maao (ed.)
304 pp., illustrated, bibliography, index, hardback
ISBN: 9781849041430

For more than 30 years military analysts and academics have struggled to arrive at a consensus definition of contemporary warfare that accurately explains the characteristics of post-Cold War conflict. Terms such as ‘Fourth Generation War’ and ‘Asymmetric War’, although commonly used, fail to fully describe the range of conflicts that have arisen since the fall of the Berlin Wall. The context of a conflict sets the conditions for the conduct of military actions and importantly the termination criteria, so it is essential for military operatives and political leaders alike to accurately conceptualise the character of modern war in order to achieve the desired military end states. However, capturing the dynamics of contemporary conflict is a complex process and not easily realised.

In Conceptualising Modern War, Hew Strachen (Oxford University), Steven Metz (US Army War College) and other eminent scholars put forward new possibilities in thinking and research on conceptualising war. Contributors highlight the inability of current models of contemporary war to articulate strategies that are sufficiently flexible to deal with rapidly evolving political and operational situations. Chapters by Dag Henrikson and Australian counterinsurgency theorist David Kilcullen challenge some of the more common contemporary views on the use of air power in the modern era and provide an opportunity for readers to question their own close held views.

This carefully researched volume discards many less developed ideas regarding war and provides critiques of current concepts such as effects-based operations and network-centric warfare. It coherently debates the need to develop a more cohesive strategy.
Command in Air War: Centralized Versus Decentralized Control of Combat Airpower
Michael W. Kometer
Air University Press, Alabama, 2007
345 pp., bibliography, paperback, e
ISBN: 9781585661640

Colonel Michael Kometer puts the command and control (C2) of air power during recent operations under the microscope, specifically the enduring concept of centralised control decentralised execution (CCDE). While airmen have advocated for CCDE since the dawn of military aviation, this approach to C2 is commonly misunderstood, save for those who operate in the air domain. Through a clinical, but easy to read analysis of air power across history and its application during recent major wars, Kometer breaks down the elements of a Combat Air Operations System and its importance to the application of modern warfare.

*Command in Air War* discusses the influence that technology has on air power C2 and how advances in technology, along with the increasing reach of human influence, are changing our approach to contemporary air power C2. It provides the opportunity for military leaders and operators across all fighting domains to grasp a greater appreciation of what air power can offer and the most effective C2 arrangements to achieve joint and service warfighting objectives.

Losing Small Wars: British Military Failure in Iraq and Afghanistan
Frank Ledwidge
Yale University Press, New Haven, 2011
304 pp., notes, bibliography, index, hardback, paperback,
ISBN: 9780300166712 (hardback), 9780300182743 (paperback)

*Losing Small Wars* is a somewhat disturbing and yet very readable critique of British military experience during the irregular conflicts in the Middle East and Asia in the wake of the September 11 bombings.

A topic that has swamped publishing houses in the past decade, the recent wars and various accounts of them, comes in for a very different treatment under a retired Royal Navy Lieutenant Commander’s pen.

*Losing Small Wars* is both a scathing indictment of the British army hierarchy and a detailed account of the tactical and operational failures in Basra and Helmand province—related unfortunately with apparent flawed hindsight. This perspective provides both the greatest strength of the work and its most substantial limitation. As Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, Britain’s ambassador to Afghanistan from 2007 to 2009 notes in his review of this book, ‘Everything Ledwidge writes is largely true, and yet I put the book down thinking that it was not the whole truth.’ Ledwidge is, at times, emotional in his critique and seems to lose sight of the strategic context in which these conflicts took place, and the perhaps insurmountable obstacles to any sort of military ‘solution.’ Indeed the very belief that ‘winning’ is possible in a military sense misses the larger point that the failings, limitations and intractable problems are as much political as military.

Despite its highly critical tenor, this is an important and captivating work. The reader may not agree with many of Ledwidge’s assertions, but his reporting is detailed, well intentioned and challenging. It behooves all serious students of the profession of arms to grapple with the issues that Ledwidge brings to the surface.
The Shaping of Grand Strategy: Policy, Diplomacy, and War
Williamson Murray, Richard Hart Sinnreich and James Lacey (ed.)
294 pp., notes, bibliography, index, hardback, paperback,
ISBN: 9780521761260 (hardback), 9780521156332 (paperback)

*The Shaping of Grand Strategy* is a collection of essays designed to develop a broader appreciation of grand strategy—‘the nexus of political and security strategy’. Grand strategy is a fundamental determinant of a sovereign state's ability to achieve national objectives in domestic and international environments. The editors analyse the strategic processes that have shaped 300 years of decision-making, rather than focusing on any particular set of decisions. This enables the contributing authors to draw out lessons of statecraft and strategy that have enduring relevance, irrespective of a nation's geographic or political position.

While the global strategic environment has evolved over the course of the periods examined, *The Shaping of Grand Strategy* highlights several important themes that have proved to be enduring: the folly of unilateralism; the role of reputation; the need for strategic flexibility; the importance of the narrative; and the mirage of absolute security. The central argument is that ‘great states’ bear the burden of grand strategy, however, leadership personality continually rises as the major factor in the shaping of grand strategy throughout this well written and well researched book.

*The Shaping of Grand Strategy* does not hold back in grading leadership influence. Churchill's ability to manage the domestic narrative both in the UK and US is juxtaposed against Truman's almost ‘accidental’ success through trusting his capable lieutenants with the development and execution of strategic policy. It is in the way that leaders of ‘great states’, and their lieutenants, view the world and their place in it that shapes the strategic world in which we live.


Danger Close: Air Controllers in Afghanistan and Iraq
Steve Call
Texas A&M University, Military History Series No 113, Texas, 2009
274 pp., photographs, maps, bibliography, index, hardback, paperback, e
ISBN: 9781585446247 (hardback), 9781603441421 (paperback)

Danger Close provides an analysis of the role of the close air support specialist in the US military. Close air support specialists are air force personnel integrated into ground force elements; they must exhibit skill sets resident in two different operational domains in order to work effectively and survive. Call’s background is US Air Force, and his knowledge of US Air Force and Army politics, regular and special forces, and the importance of close air support in contemporary operations is clearly articulated. His handling of contentious issues is forthright, particularly the events that occurred during Operation Anaconda in Afghanistan during 2002.

Danger Close raises issues that are directly applicable to the ADF, especially Army and Air Force interaction. There is particular value in the discussion on inter-service rivalries, not just at the tactical level in which these Services operate, but on some of the problems that frequently occur up to the higher (two star) levels. Call highlights that each Service has a different approach to command and control, for example the debate between joint fires versus CAOC ownership, which he argues puts at risk not just mission success but the lives of combat forces. The rivalry is difficult to fathom for those who have not served as an Air Force specialist on an Army staff.

Many of the issues raised in Danger Close will resonate with those involved in the air-to-ground mission, in particular RAAF’s No 4 Squadron, and other ‘high demand, low density’ personnel who, by virtue of their Air Force skill sets, are in high demand by non-Air Force users.
The Limits of Air Power: The American Bombing of North Vietnam
Mark Clodfelter
University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln, 2nd Edition, 2006
223 pp., maps, photographs, bibliography, index, paperback, ISBN: 9780803264540

The Limits of Air Power examines the American bombing of North Vietnam as a means of achieving specific national policy objectives. Clodfelter uses examples of applied air strategy to draw contrasts between the political and military environments in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, demonstrating that in many cases, it is the political leadership and situational context more than any other factors that are the key determinates to the of successful air power application.

Clodfelter clearly articulates the impact of negative political objectives on the effectiveness of air power application. For much of the Vietnam War, negative objectives, in the form of political restraints, negated the ability of air power to successfully support the single positive objective: a stable, independent, non-Communist South Vietnamese nation. These restraints ensured that Johnson's Rolling Thunder air campaign of 1965-1968 achieved no significant military success.

These negative objectives are placed in stark contrast to the positive objectives directed by the Nixon administration, which saw the Linebacker I and II air offensives as successful applications of air power in the achievement of limited policy goals.

Air power, then and now, is alluring to politicians as it appears to offer a cheap, speedy and enigmatically engaging victory over one's enemies. Clodfelter disabuses the reader of the rather popular notion that air power is the answer to all conflicts.

Where Clodfelter adds insight into our current use of air power in Afghanistan is his description of the disparate aims so evident in politics; each politician and senior civilian administrator has a different purpose in mind which eventually clouds the perceived successes in its application. Such revelations have resonance for all military activities, particularly in how the successful application of air power is judged in the Australian political context.
Chinese Aerospace Power: Evolving Maritime Roles
Andrew S. Erickson and Lyle J. Goldstein (ed.)
Naval Institute Press, Annapolis MD, 2011
524 pp., illustrations, maps, index, notes, hardback, ISBN: 9781591142416

*Chinese Aerospace Power* is the fifth book in the ‘Studies in Chinese Maritime Development’ series, and continues to set the standard for the understanding of Chinese military affairs. This book offers a thorough analysis of how China’s impressive advances in air and space capabilities are influencing the military balance in the Asia-Pacific.

*Chinese Aerospace Power* avoids hyperbole by presenting the reality of Chinese military capabilities, experiences and perspectives. It provides great insight into China’s recent advances in areas such as intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, air launched cruise missiles, anti-ship ballistic missiles, and space technologies. It contains detailed analysis to back-up their claims and the analysis is supported by relevant sources.

*Chinese Aerospace Power* also contextualises the development of China’s carrier capability, the initial phase of which has been demonstrated by the purchase and refitting of a former Russian Admiral Kuznetsov class aircraft carrier. The carrier was named Liaoning, after China’s north eastern province, and commenced sea trials in August 2011, well after this book was published.

Overall, *Chinese Aerospace Power* provides an excellent introduction to China’s current aerospace transformation. It is a must read for ADF members who seek a more in-depth appreciation of strategic and/or capability influences, irrespective of whether they are serving with Air Force, Navy or Army.
The Nature of War in the Information Age: Clausewitzian Future

David J. Lonsdale

Frank Cass, London, 2004

269 pp., bibliography, index, paperback, hardback, eISBN: 9780714684291 (paperback), 9780714655468 (hardback)

Will the information age witness a fundamental change to the nature of warfare? David Lonsdale addresses this often discussed question through an evaluation of strategic thinkers, both classical and modern.

The phrases ‘Revolution in Military Affairs’, ‘Network Centric Warfare’ and others will be familiar, as Lonsdale’s assessment of their value to warfare is the primary topic. His concept of the ‘Infosphere’ as a fifth domain for defence forces to operate in is a very useful analogy. Operational success demands a joint approach for operation in the air, sea, land, space and infosphere domains. Domination of a single domain cannot alone achieve strategic success.

*The Nature of War* carries some significant warnings for the ADF. Regardless of technology, Artificial Intelligence and networks, strategy is a political activity. Warfare, and thus strategic military command, also remains distinctly political and are inherently human activities.

Lonsdale argues that the information age has only produced further changes to the character of war, and that Clausewitz’s work remains ‘not simply the greatest but the only truly great book on war’ given its applicability to all conflict. However, given that Clausewitz’s tome focussed on the deadly clash of armies, which hasn’t been the ADF’s experience since World War II, readers may continue to question whether Sun Tzu’s or even Jomini’s concepts of war remain more contemporarily appropriate.

*The Nature of War* is a challenging, but overall rewarding read that presents a balanced assessment of warfare from Roman times to recent conflicts in Afghanistan.
Command, Leadership, Management and ethics

The Mission, the Men and Me: Lessons from a former Delta Force Commander
Pete Blaber
Berkley Caliber, New York, 2010
336 pp., photographs, maps, index, paperback, hardback, ISBN: 9780425236574 (paperback), 9780425223727 (hardback)

Peter Blaber, a former Delta Force commander, provides a unique insight into leadership and personnel management gleaned from more than 20 years with the US Special Forces. Lessons on command, leadership, management and ethics from a real-world perspective make this book stand out from others in the management genre.

Blaber addresses a number of the common problems associated with managing teams in high pressure situations, where the ‘group objective’ frequently trumps individual and sometimes organisational needs. However, while an effective team can determine a mission's outcome, mission success often comes down to working and communicating with other services and government agencies. Examples of issues of command and control, communication, and trust and flexibility are plentiful throughout the book. There are valuable lessons to learn in integrating dissimilar military elements and other government agencies for truly ‘joint’ operations. Examples of poor command and control and the resultant fallout highlight the importance of clear and concise leadership and the criticality of effective management.

Commanders work in the nexus of control, leadership, management and ethics. Blaber provides the reader with a glimpse into the balancing act that successful leaders need to perform, and the negative effects that result when they can’t.
Leading Outside the Lines – How to Mobilize the (in)Formal Organization, Energize Your Team, and Get Better Results
Jon R. Katzenbach and Zia Khan
Jossey-Bass, California, 2010
240 pp., hardback, e
ISBN: 9780470589021

Leading Outside the Lines highlights the informal leadership and personnel management that exists in every organisation, including the ADF. Providing an array of examples to illustrate how the informal and formal can motivate individuals to perform and mobilise organisational change, this book will benefit readers at any level within an organisation.

Examples from some of the most renowned military organisations provide a surprising insight into how a number of the world’s most elite institutions go about their day-to-day business. The story of soon-to-graduate West Point cadets being tasked to structure a kindergarten class (and the resultant chaos) comes a close second to the tale of the Admiral’s drowned hat, which opens the book’s discussion on the magic of the logic of the informal and formal.

Katzenbach and Khan have a clear, engaging and easy to read style. Readers will also like the simple method of expression, such as ‘Fast Zebras’, to describe managing people. Leading Outside the Lines was written during the Global Financial Crisis (GFC), so it is especially relevant to organisations, including the ADF, navigating post-GFC fiscal realities.

To remain influential in the contemporary world, the Air Force must be competitive in recruiting and retaining its people. Leading outside the lines discusses non-financial retention and motivation strategies, recognising that in many cases it is more than financial reasons that motivate employees to work for an organisation.
In these opening years of the 21st century, culture has exerted a strategic influence on military operations more than any other factor. Richard Nisbett, in *The Geography of Thought*, investigates the impact of cultural differences on the perspectives and decision-making.

With expeditionary operations and air diplomacy continuing to hold primacy in Australia’s approach to operations and engagement, a broader understanding of these differences can only enhance our ability to interact with military and civilian actors across our Asian region and beyond.

Written from the US perspective, Nisbett provides an insight into the cultural viewpoint of our closest ally, providing an insight into why some courses of action are followed while others are not. An example of the various paths followed is Nisbitt’s study on the China/US EP-3C incident that occurred near Hainan Island, which provides some lessons on decision-making from the standpoint of different cultures. Culture is the lens through which all decisions are shaped, thus in appreciating the philosophy and psychology of culture we gain insight into the how and why of some choices made during conflict.
While 19 February 2012 marked the 70th Anniversary of the bombing of Darwin, it is worthy remembering that Japanese air operations over Northern Australia continued throughout 1942 and 1943. These World War II raids are to date the only direct assault on Australian mainland territory. Though ADF personnel have historically fought expeditionary operations, many RAAF aircrew died in Australian skies, on Australian soil and in Australian waters off our coast. In 1942 our air defence was provided by the US Army Air Forces, but in 1943 it was RAAF’s No 1 Fighter Wing. So how was our experience of mounting our first fighter air defence campaign on Australian home soil?

Readers should prepare for substantial aerial combat narrative by this Australian author. These men fought in tropical dress, sometimes without oxygen, battling G-forces in aircraft whose single propeller frequently failed and machine guns and cannons froze. The Spitfire was a short-range fighter unsuited for water landings or night flying. Bail out from a crippled aircraft was frequently fatal (checklist: slow down, invert aircraft, slide open canopy and ‘fall out’).

Using Japanese and Australian records, Cooper makes some brutal assessments that highlight a costly inability to adapt and learn from mistakes (and enemy’s successes). Japanese discipline, communications and commitment to pair or triple aircraft formation effectively thwarted the allied ‘individual’ or ‘big wing’ approach. Cooper’s forthright treatment of issues and balanced assessment of actual successes and failures provides lessons that transcend the ages; with some that readers may recognise from recent experiences.

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Land Based Air Power or Aircraft Carriers? A Case Study of the British Debate about Maritime Air Power in the 1960s

Gjert Lage Dyndal

Ashgate Publishing Limited, Farnham, 2012

230 pp., illustrations, appendices, bibliography, index, hardback, e

ISBN: 9781409433354

Meticulously researched and engagingly written, this new work by Gjert Dyndal is a comprehensive historical investigation of the British maritime air power debate that took place in the 1960s. Dyndal has taken advantage of recently declassified archival material to bring to light the complexity and dynamics of this most fascinating period in British strategic thinking.

The 1960s Cold War era was the setting for an intense and at times acrimonious debate between the British Air Ministry and the Admiralty over the shape and composition of British maritime air power. As the British Empire retreated to ‘east of the Suez’ from the mid-1950s, the Royal Navy’s role to ‘fill the gap of influence’ through the use of carrier-based sea-mobile forces sparked intense debate over the relative effectiveness and affordability of carrier-based versus land-based air power. The debate between the Royal Air Force and Navy whilst commonly depicted as an example of intense inter-service rivalry, was a debate founded on two competing and largely mutually exclusive strategic concepts—an ‘island strategy’ of land-based air power projection and one of carrier based sea mobility.

Dyndal, to his great credit, has brought out the intricacies and personalities involved in this important debate in a fashion that is both highly informative whilst being an entertaining read.

Significantly, the ideas debated in the 1960s hold certain validity in today’s security context also, and so readers will no doubt recognise echoes of the past in contemporary security discussion. The topic of this book may seem quite specific and rather narrow, but traces of these arguments of yesterday perhaps still resonate in the hallways of headquarters today.
Fortress Rabaul: The Battle for the Southwest Pacific, January 1942 - April 1943
Bruce Gamble
Zenith Press, Minneapolis, 2010
398 pp., plates, maps, bibliography, index, notes, hardback, e
ISBN: 9780760323502

Australians know about the Kokoda Track but few are aware of the air operations fought over Rabaul. Understanding the air battles fought over Papua and New Guinea during 1942 and 1943 is essential for RAAF members, especially those seeking enhanced professional mastery. This is the first comprehensive account of the air war over Rabaul to be written, and historian Bruce Gamble fills a major gap in military histories describing the effort to defend Australia 70 years ago.

Unbeknown to many, Rabaul was the longest battle of the Pacific War, as it was the focus of Allied air attacks from January 1942 until the end of the war. Gamble uses the personal experiences of individual Australian, American and Japanese airmen to illustrate the extraordinary events of the battle. A former US Naval Officer, Gamble has a vested interest in aviation history. He notes that the US awarded airmen six Medals of Honour for action over Rabaul, whilst there was no official recognition of RAAF sacrifices.⁶

This is a warts and all account of one of the most successful, albeit often ruthless and bloody air campaigns in recorded history. Gamble’s well researched narrative is easy to read, albeit confronting in parts. Fortress Rabaul is a must for air power advocates and air enthusiasts alike. After reading this, air power advocates can politely add to Kokoda conversation with ‘What do you know about the battle for Rabaul – a forty-four month air campaign?’ His next book, due for publication in 2013, continues the story.

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6 America awarded 464 Medals of Honour in World War II, 266 posthumously. Five of the six awarded for these airmen’s actions over Rabaul were posthumous. No Australian airmen received recognition.
No Australian aircraft met the Japanese during the first bombing of Darwin in 1942. How did this happen? Were all our airmen in European skies? What would this mean for Australia during the Pacific War? Johnson’s account of the RAAF’s lead-up to war makes brutal reading. In 1935 Australia’s government finally realised that the RAAF needed funding and modern war-capable aircraft, after more than a decade of neglect. Yet government strategy determined that only bombers, not fighter aircraft, were necessary. The Japanese had spent double what Australia had between 1923 and 1927; their domestically produced aircraft were equal or better than those of the West, and its aircrew blooded several times since 1928.

*Whispering Death* is a well researched and enjoyable narrative of the spectrum of air power roles, with numerous maps and photos. It provides an accurate account of the air campaign in the Pacific, including amphibious operational support and ‘army cooperation’ and domestic politics. All aspects of air operations are addressed including the poorly equipped, poorly led realities of the campaign. Along with the constant risk of contracting malaria and dysentery, accounts of maintenance with an axe, chisel and corrugated iron provide a sobering example of the working conditions during Australia’s expeditionary operations in the Pacific.

Yet humour is throughout: from how to fix a landing gear hydraulic leak while airborne, to the ‘last man standing’ Medical Officer’s (unintentionally hilarious) combat intercept instructions demonstrates ‘Aussie’ innovation during desperate times.
Biographies and Memoirs

Down to Earth: the Autobiography of Air Marshal David Evans, AC, DSO, AFC
S. D. Evans
Air Power Development Centre, Canberra, 2011
284 pp., photographs, hardback, e
ISBN: 9781920800598

The punning title of this book lives up to promise as both the personal story of an eminent aviator who has since hung up his wings and a blunt account of 42 years spent in the RAAF, culminating in the author serving as Chief of the Royal Australian Air Force from 1982-85. In between he served in the Berlin Airlift of 1948-49 and as a squadron Commanding Officer in Vietnam in 1967-68. These and other significant postings along the way enable Air Marshal Evans to comment authoritatively on the Service principally providing the nation’s air power during most of the latter half of the 20th century. Evans is one of the few RAAF chiefs to do so in print. While this is a career history for the benefit of current and future generations of airmen with little understanding of what things used to be like, he does end on a reflective note with his assessment of some recent defence developments.

This book was produced under the auspices of the Office of Air Force History oral history program. Further information and other books in this series are available from the Air Power Development Centre website.

Wing Commander Richard (‘Dick’) Cresswell, DFC, logged over 450 hours flying hazardous operational missions as the leader of an Australian fighter squadron in two wars: first in World War II, and then in the Korean War of 1950-53. His logbook would be interesting: he started flying fighters in 1939 in a Hawker Demon biplane, converting in 1942 to the P-40 Kittyhawk, and then in 1946 to the P51 Mustang. Flying piston aircraft against the MiG-15 jet aircraft in Korea was a losing venture, and in 1951 he was converted to the F-80 jet fighter in preparation for Australia’s Gloster Meteor 8 jet aircraft. Converting from piston to jet engined aircraft would be challenging enough, let alone twice, during wartime.

During these conflicts he was three times the Commanding Officer of the famed No 77 Squadron. Moreover, on each occasion that he commanded No 77 Squadron, it was committed to ‘the sharp end’ of the campaigns in which he fought. Not many fighter leaders of the RAAF achieved this remarkable distinction, which seemed to challenge the rules. This book provides wonderful insight into a remarkable leader, as well as an exciting period in military aviation and Australian politics.

Because of his distinguished service leading No 77 Squadron in war, Dick Creswell became known throughout the RAAF as ‘Mr Double Seven’. Here is the tale of one of the legends of the RAAF, told by well-known RAAF historian, George Odgers.
Lost Without Trace
Leon Kane-Maguire
Air Power Development Centre, Canberra, 2011
244 pp., photographs, appendices, bibliography, paperback, e
ISBN: 9781920800642

In September 1944 a Beaufighter from No 31 Squadron, RAAF, crashed in the Northern Territory following a strike mission over Japanese-occupied Timor. Although evidence was discovered some time later that the two-man crew of the aircraft had survived the crash, no trace was ever discovered of what became of them.

The pilot of the lost Beaufighter was Squadron Leader Wilbur Wackett, the 23-year-old son of Lawrence Wackett—himself an ex-RAAF officer who became well-known as one of Australia’s leading aircraft designers. Wilbur had followed his father’s footsteps into the Air Force before the war, and was a veteran of the air campaign in New Guinea where he had already survived being shot down and avoided certain death at the hands of the Japanese.

This book highlights the flying career of Wilbur Wackett and describes the catalogue of tragedy that unfolded with his mysterious end. The loss of Wilbur was quickly followed by the loss of his only child. His wife, who remarried, lost a battle with cancer at a young age. Strangely, the full circumstances of Wilbur’s disappearance were withheld from his father until just before Sir Lawrence’s death in 1982.

Lost Without Trace is a stark reminder of the cruel fate which could await airmen who were downed while operating in the harsh environment of Australia’s north.

This book was published as the winner of the 2010 RAAF Heritage Awards. The RAAF Heritage Awards were established in 1987 to encourage individuals to undertake original artistic and literary endeavours that record and represent the range of Air Force activities since the inception of the Service in 1921. Other Heritage Award winning publications are available from the Air Power Development Centre website.

Sagittarius Rising
Cecil Lewis
344 pp., paperback, hardback
ISBN: 9781848325197 (paperback), 9784444403252 (hardback)

Sent to France with the Royal Flying Corps at just 17, and later a member of the famous No 56 Squadron, Englishman Cecil Lewis was an illustrious and passionate fighter pilot of World War I. He was described by Bernard Shaw in 1935 as ‘a thinker, a master of words, and a bit of a poet.’ First published in 1936, various prints of his first book are available, even audio-book.¹⁰

In this vivid and spirited account, Lewis evocatively sets his love of the skies and flying against his bitter experience of the horrors of war, as he progresses from France and the battlefields of the Somme, to the pioneering defence of London against deadly night time raids.

Lewis distinguished himself in action with eight victories throughout World War I and was awarded the Military Cross. After the war he became a flying instructor in China and later achieved fame as one of the co-founders of the BBC and as a respected playwright, winning an Oscar for the screenplay of *Pygmalion*.

*Sagittarius Rising* brings to life the career of a fighter pilot thrown into aerial combat when aviation was still in its infancy. It captures the enthusiasm and indestructibility of youth quickly tarnished by the realities of war. It is a stirring tribute to the remarkable young men who risked their lives daily in the golden age of aerial combat. As Shaw stated, ‘This is a book everyone should read.’

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¹⁰ Additional material for download at: [http://www.152hyderabad.co.uk/html/cecil_arthur_lewis_1918.html](http://www.152hyderabad.co.uk/html/cecil_arthur_lewis_1918.html) (includes obituary link).
No Moon Tonight
Don Charlwood
Crecy Publishing, Manchester, 2004
256 pp., photographs, glossary, paperback
ISBN: 9780907579977

No Moon Tonight is a sobering and authentic account of Don Charlwood’s experience as an RAAF navigator, serving in RAF Bomber Command during World War II. This air power classic is a powerful and touching retelling of the daily stresses, hopes and fears of men at war in Lancaster bombers over Europe in the 1940s. First published in 1956, various prints (such as Penguin Books’ 1991 Australian War Classics series presented by Weary Dunlop11) are available.

Born in Melbourne, 1915, Charlwood enlisted in the RAAF for aircrew training under the Empire Air Training Scheme in 1940. In the winter of 1942 he found himself posted to RAF’s No 103 Squadron in Lincolnshire for duties as a navigator on Lancaster bombers. The squadron’s mission, like so many other RAF bomber units, was to take the fight to the enemy in the only manner available to them at the time—night area bombing deep within German territory.

Charlwood’s depiction of his experiences not just within the squadron but as an Australian in England during the war, provides a profound insight into the lives of himself and his fellow crewmembers as they endure the seemingly interminable strain of nightly missions. Periodically, blowing off stress in ‘binges’ and various adventures, Charlwood succeeds in relaying to the reader what ‘it felt like to operate on night bombers’ in the winter of 1942-43.

This is an engrossing book that rings true regarding the human side of conflict, of courage during war and of the sacrifices the men and women of Bomber Command made during this epic struggle. Charlwood died in Melbourne on 19 June 2012.

11 ISBN: 9780140154474
Kelly: More Than My Share of It All
Clarence Johnson with Maggie Smith
Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC, 1989
205 pp., illustrations, paperback, ISBN: 9780874745641

‘Aeronautical engineer, his genius for conceiving unique airframes and his technical management skills contribute mightily to the Nation’s security by creating aircraft of daring design with unmatched rapidity and effectiveness.’ This is the citation that accompanied Clarence ‘Kelly’ Johnson’s Medal of Freedom, the highest US civil honor. His autobiography is an easy to read story of an amazing life.

‘Kelly’ Johnson is probably the most recognizable name in the Aerospace Industry, rising to an iconic level as the designer or major engineer of over 40 aircraft from the P-38 Lightning to the F-104 Starfighter, and from the Lockheed Constellation to the SR-71 Blackbird and U-2 Dragonlady. Kelly single-handedly designed the Lockheed Hudson Bomber at the age of 29, an aircraft that saw service with 12 different RAAF squadrons. His extraordinary leadership of the Lockheed ‘Skunk Works’ cemented his reputation as a legendary figure in American aerospace management.

As the only man to win two Collier’s Trophies (the aeronautical equivalent of the Nobel Prize) he is widely regarded as a supremely capable engineer and aircraft designer, if not the supreme figure of the aerospace design and engineering industry.

A strong supporter of ethics in business, Johnson’s famed ‘down-to-brass-tacks’ management style was summed up by his motto, ‘Be quick, be quiet, and be on time.’ He ran Skunk Works by the Kelly’s 14 Rules, rules that have as much credence today as they had during Kelly’s era.
Red Storm Rising
Tom Clancy
832 pp., paperback, $12
ISBN: 9780007340590

When three Muslim terrorists destroy the Soviet Union’s largest petrochemical plant they believe they’re striking a blow for freedom. They never would have thought their actions would lead to World War III. Tom Clancy’s second book was first published in 1986 and has been in print ever since. While dated in some respects—for example the USSR does not exist—it remains an enjoyable read, weaving military force application with politics, diplomacy, grand strategy and intelligence.

There’s something for all military readers. RAAF members will enjoy fighter air intercepts, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, shooting down reconnaissance satellites, and military deception using aerial decoys. The amphibious assault and close air support sections will also be enjoyed by the air enthusiast. Despite being fiction, Clancy has not flinched from reality. He demonstrates the importance of personality in command as well as the ramification of failure in military operations. The sinking of a US amphibious assault ship, with 2500 marines onboard, while in convoy and the importance of logistics for NATO forces serve as scarily realistic fictional ‘lessons’ for military readers.

The book was very successful, and launched a range of other merchandise including computer games. While some characters can be a little cliché, it is fiction, and the book is an enjoyable stand alone story (ie. not part of his Jack Ryan or Op Centre series). Tom Clancy has also written non-fiction books on various military capabilities—but they’re nowhere near as fun!

**Flight of the Intruder**  
Stephen Coonts  
St Martins Press, New York, 2006  
454 pp., paperback  
ISBN: 9780312939472

Former Navy flyer Stephen Coonts gives an excellent sense of the complexities of air combat operations and the ever-present challenges, even for the best airmen, to solve sudden problems over and over, knowing that a twist of fate, such as a single round from a rifle, can put the crew or aircraft at risk.

As an A-6 Intruder pilot during the Vietnam War, Jake Grafton flies his bomber on sorties past enemy flak and SAM missiles, and then must manoeuvre his aircraft, often at night, back onto the relatively small deck of an aircraft carrier.

Grafton alternates between remorse over the fate of his unseen victims on the ground and the prevalent gung-ho 'let’s win this war’ sentiment. He lashes out at both the ‘10,000 mile screwdriver’ wielded by policymakers who select less-than-important targets for the dangerous missions, and advocates for peace back in the United States.

*Flight of the Intruder* may be fiction and may over-simplify many of the challenges airmen overcome to deliver airpower to the right place at the right time, but it is an easy read, full of action, and artfully draws out some of the issues that airmen have confronted from the birth of combat aviation into the skies over Libya and Afghanistan.
Great Flying Stories
Frederick Forsyth (ed.)
384 pp., paperback, hardback
ISBN: 9780552138963 (paperback), 978039036497 (hardback)
‘Today most of us can fly; that is, we can sit in an armchair with a glass of wine, confident that Mr Boeing will keep us up there and Messrs Rolls and Royce will push us along to our holiday destination.’ A sentiment familiar amongst travelers is echoed by Frederick Forsyth in the introduction to his selection of aviation short stories. This selection pays homage to those who braved ‘frail, creaky contraptions’ to explore the sky and space, paving the way for the modern traveler, contemporary aviators and present-day combat aircrew.

The short stories represent a literary ‘who’s who’ of writers. Roald Dahl, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Edgar Allan Poe, H. E. Bates (the RAF’s ‘Flying Officer X’), Captain W. E. Johns (creator of ‘Biggles’), H. G. Wells, Richard Bach, and of course Forsyth himself, supply aviation stories that span World War I and World War II. Determining the best story is difficult; all will touch the readers in one way or another. Forsyth’s The Shepherd describes how the pilot of a vintage warbird finds and escorts a lost modern day fighter to its rightful destination during a foul-weathered Christmas night. How Sleep the Brave documents the mission of a World War II Stirling bomber from takeoff to the crew’s struggle to survive in a dinghy after it crashes into the North Sea.

Forsyth is best known for writing thrillers; The Day of the Jackal, The Odessa File, Avenger and The Afghan are just a few, yet his interest in aviation started early. He received his private pilot’s license at seventeen, joined the RAF barely six months later, and earned his wings aged 19. The book was originally published in 1991 and various prints are available.
Section Two: Enduring Works for Professional Mastery

Air Power Strategy

The Air Campaign—Planning for Combat
Colonel John A. Warden III
The seminal work on the contemporary application of Air Power and Air Campaign Planning, first published in 1988.

The Command of the Air
Giulio Douhet
The foundation book that explored the concepts of air warfare, in which concepts for the employment of air power were explored that are still valid today.

Winged Defense: The Development and Possibilities of Modern Air Power—Economic and Military
Robert William Mitchell
A detailed work first published in 1925, based on personal experience and advocating the superiority of air power as an instrument of military power.

The Paths of Heaven: The Evolution of Airpower Theory
Colonel Phillip S. Meilinger, USAF (ed.)
A detailed study consisting of a number of essays that together provides a clear understanding of the development of air power theories through analysis of the wars and conflicts of the past century.

Global Air Power
John Andreas Olsen (ed.)
This 2011 work examines, in several essays by world renowned air power theorists, the historical developments that have brought the major air forces of the world to their current position.
Military Strategy

Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age
Peter Paret (ed.)
Over 20 essays on war, covering leaders and thinkers like Clausewitz and Mao, conflicts, strategy and politics.

On War
Carl Von Clausewitz
Written in German in 1832, multiple versions and translations abound, but volumes one to three of his 10 volumes of work are known in English as ‘On War’.
http://www.clausewitz.com/readings/Creadings.htm

The Art of War
Sun Tzu
The Chinese classic compiled over 2000 years ago. There are several translations available of the book that inspired Clausewitz and Jomini (among others).

Strategy: The Indirect Approach
B. H. Liddell Hart
Originally published in 1929 and extensively updated since, a British World War I Army Captain analyses historical battles to develop an alternative to attrition warfare. Hart provided a ‘new’ guerrilla warfare chapter in his 1967 second edition.

The Influence of Sea Power Upon History 1660-1785
Alfred T. Mahan
Written in 1890, this was required reading by American, German and Japanese navy members pre-World War I.
http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/13529

Some Principles of Maritime Strategy
Julian Stafford Corbett
Written in 1911 by a British naval historian, this book promotes the use of manoeuvre warfare in the maritime environment, unlike Mahan’s ‘fleet on fleet’ approach.
http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/15076
Air Power History

General Kenney Reports—A Personal History of the Pacific War
George C. Kenney
Conflict, frustration and politics: the prototype JFACC’s memoirs are as blunt about command and leadership with Macarthur and Australian senior military personnel as they are about the Pacific War.

A History of Air Warfare
John Andreas Olsen (ed.)
A 2009 collection of essays by eminent scholars that traces the history of the development of air power from the very beginning, to the Lebanon War of 2006. It also includes three very thought provoking essays on the future of air power.

Royal Australian Air Force History

The Australian Centenary History of Defence—Volume II—The Royal Australian Air Force
Alan Stephens
A comprehensive overview of RAAF History from its beginnings until 2000.

The Third Brother: The Royal Australian Air Force 1921-39
Chris Coulthard-Clark
The authoritative history of the RAAF’s early years commissioned by the Air Force, written by one of Australia’s leading historians.

Going Solo: The Royal Australian Air Force 1946–1971
Alan Stephens
The authoritative RAAF history of the 25 years post World War II—everything you need to know about the coming of age of Australian air power.
Chris Coulthard-Clark
The official history of the RAAF’s involvement in Vietnam. The Air Force story is often overlooked however this work balances the national narrative.

The Decisive Factor: Air Power Doctrine by Air Vice-Marshal H.N. Wrigley
Alan Stephens and Brendan O’Loghlin (ed.)
After serving in World War I, Wrigley attended RAF Staff College in London. This work explains how the earliest air power doctrine was developed.

Alan Stephens
A comprehensive overview of the evolution of Australian air power thinking. It provides an understanding of our background to inform our future.
Section Three: Past Chief of Air Force’s Reading Lists

2011 Chief of Air Force’s Reading List

Global Air Power
John Andreas Olsen (ed.), 2011, e

Making Sense of War: Strategy for the 21st Century
Alan Stephens and Nicola Baker, 2006, e

The Art of Air Power: Sun Tzu Revisited
Sanu Kainikara, 2009

Military Orientalism: Eastern War Through Western Eyes
Patrick Porter, 2009, e

7 Deadly Scenarios: A Military Futurist Explores War in the 21st Century
Andrew F. Krepinevich, 2010, e

Cyber War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It

Emerging Space Powers: The New Space Programs of Asia, the Middle East and South America
Brian Harvey, Henk H. F. Smid and Theo Pirard, 2010, e

A History of Air Warfare
John Andreas Olsen (ed.), 2009, e

War Over the Trenches: Air Power and the Western Front Campaigns 1916-1918
E. R. Hooton, 2010

Whirlwind: The Air War Against Japan, 1942-1945
Barrett Tillman, 2010, e

36 Days: The Untold Story Behind the Gallipoli Landings
Hugh Dolan, 2010, e

The Five Pillars of TQM: How to Make Total Quality Management Work for You
Bill Creech, 1995

Wolfram von Richthofen: Master of the German Air War
James S. Corum, 2008
2010 Chief of Air Force’s Reading List

Boyd – The Fighter Pilot Who Changed the Art of War
Robert Coram, 2004

John Warden and the Renaissance of American Air Power
John Andreas Olsen, 2007, e

Understanding Airpower—Bonfire of the Fallacies
Colin S. Gray, 2009, e

Learning Large Lessons—The Evolving Roles of Ground Power and Air Power in the Post-Cold War Era
David E. Johnson, 2007, e

Wired For War—The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century
P. W. Singer, 2010, e

Air Power Against Terror—America’s Conduct of Operation Enduring Freedom
Benjamin S. Lambeth, 1999, e

Airpower in Small Wars—Fighting Insurgents and Terrorists
James S. Corum and Wray R. Johnson, 2003

Shortchanging the Joint Fight? An Airman’s Assessment of FM 3-24 and the Case for Developing Truly Joint COIN Doctrine
Major General Charles J. Dunlap, Jr, USAF
Why Air Forces Fail—The Anatomy of Defeat
Robin Higham and Stephen J. Harris (ed.), 2006, e

The Starfish and the Spider—The Unstoppable Power of Leaderless Organizations
Ori Brafman and Rod A. Beckstrom, 2008, e

The Forgotten Few—77 RAAF Squadron in Korea
Doug Hurst, 2008, e

Jack Davenport—Beaufighter Leader
Kristen Alexander, 2009, e

We Who Are About To Die—The Story of John Lerew—A Hero of Rabaul, 1942
Lex McAulay, 2007

The Flying Grocer
Rupert Guinness, 2007, e

Wings of Destiny—Wing Commander Charles Learmonth, DFC and Bar and the Air War in New Guinea
Charles Page, 2012, e