



Air Marshal Geoff Brown, AO
Chief of Air Force

Chief of Air Force's Reading List

2014

AIR FORCE





CHIEF OF AIR FORCE

CHIEF OF AIR FORCE'S READING LIST 2014



Air Marshal Geoff Brown, AO
September 2014

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Telephone: + 61 2 6128 7041 | **Facsimile:** +61 2 6128 7053

E-mail: airpower@defence.gov.au | **Website:** www.airforce.gov.au/airpower

PREFACE

There are worse crimes than burning books. One of them is not reading them.

Joseph Brodsky

The *Chief of Air Force's Reading List 2014* comes at a time of both historic importance as we begin the commemoration of the start of military flying in Australia in 1914 and Australian involvement in the First World War, and at a critical juncture for our future, as we prepare to induct transformational air power capabilities into Air Force. In recognition of the historic events we have included a review of Volume VIII of the Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–18, *The Australian Flying Corps* (AFC) in this year's reading list, and have also included it in the list of enduring works under the Royal Australian Air Force History section. We have also placed John Keegan's classic book on military leadership, *The Mask of Command* in the list of enduring works under the Military Strategy section because of the influence of leadership upon the successful implementation of strategy.

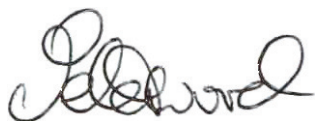
The format of the 2014 list continues that of previous years and consists of two main sections. The first contains a new list of 18 books grouped into six categories covering: air power concepts, strategy and doctrine; air power issues; command, leadership, management and ethics; air power history; biographies and memoirs; and a brief 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 air power. There is also a third which recounts previous reading lists.

In prefacing this year's list it is worth restating the document's aim as being an attempt to facilitate and improve the level of professional mastery of the RAAF's members. Professional mastery features prominently in our doctrine and concepts of how we will conduct operations and the original reading list made some important points about it:

Professional mastery cannot be obtained merely by attending courses. Nor can it be achieved through concerted activity alone. It is obtained through diligent study over a long period and is the culmination of a conscious effort. It is more an art than science. Reading is a key part of an individual's endeavour to achieve professional mastery.

Enhancing our professional mastery through air power study will enable us to better introduce and integrate our coming transformational capabilities with our current force—to develop air power that is integrated, informed and decisive.

The *Chief of Air Force's Reading List 2014* is not exhaustive and suggestions by readers for future inclusions or improvements are welcome.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Wood', with a stylized, cursive script.

Group Captain Peter Wood, CSM
Director, Air Power Development Centre
September 2014

FOREWORD

We are like dwarfs sitting on the shoulders of giants. We see more, and things that are more distant, than they did, not because our sight is superior or because we are taller than they, but because they raise us up, and by their great stature add to ours.

John of Salisbury¹

In 2014 we commemorate the centenary of Australia's involvement in World War I as well as the beginning of military aviation in Australia. In 1914 the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) was formed for overseas duty and the Australian Flying Corps (AFC)—which was formed in 1912—began flying training at Point Cook in Victoria. The pioneering efforts of the AFC provided a sound foundation and an enviable legacy for the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) when it was established as a separate service on 31 March 1921.

It is sobering to think that 100 years ago the body of air power knowledge, experience and conceptual thinking was essentially nothing. Military thinking of the time was influenced by theorists such as Von Clausewitz and Jomini, while naval thinking was dominated by Mahan and Corbett. The advent of air power changed the two-dimensional conception of warfare and transformed it into a three-dimensional undertaking. Over time the joint operations of air, land and maritime forces has proven decisively superior to that of a joint land and maritime force alone.

Just as the AFC pioneers were faced with a new form of warfare, so a century later we are faced with new transformational warfighting challenges. In less than 10 years the RAAF will step into: electronic warfare (EA-18G Growler); fifth generation air combat operations (F-35 Lightning II); and remotely piloted air systems operations (MQ-4C Triton) to a degree we have not previously experienced. The greater volume of information that will flow from these capabilities, along with the ever-improving Wedgetail and the P-8A, will have to be seamlessly integrated across a wider participant group, at greater speed and with enhanced precision than we have thus far achieved. Although a wealth of training and other resources will be available to us, the imperative to teach ourselves will remain as we encounter unforeseen circumstances and events. We will need to build upon the foundation that has been handed down to us by those who have served before. One thing that has not changed since AFC days is that at

¹ McGarry, Daniel, 2009, Translation of: *John of Salisbury, Metalogicon: a Twelfth Century Defense of the Verbal and Logical Arts of the Trivium*, Paul Dry Books, Philadelphia.

times of uncertainty, books will often be our best resource for self education and, in turn, will underpin our innovation and adaptive behaviour.

I commend this reading list to you and encourage you to make some of these books part of your reading experience over the next twelve months.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Brown', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Air Marshal Geoff Brown, AO

Chief of Air Force

August 2014

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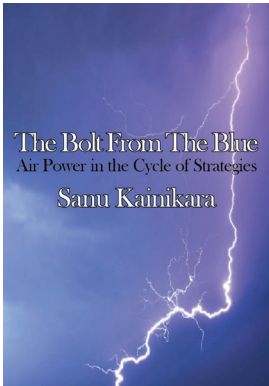
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SECTION ONE: THE 2014 LIST

Note: books that are available for electronic download or purchase are identified with an 'e' following their ISBN designations.

AIR POWER CONCEPTS, STRATEGY & DOCTRINE



The Bolt from the Blue: Air Power in the Cycle of Strategies

Sanu Kainikara

Air Power Development Centre, Canberra, 2013

127 pp, notes, bibliography

ISBN: 978-1920800949 (paperback), e

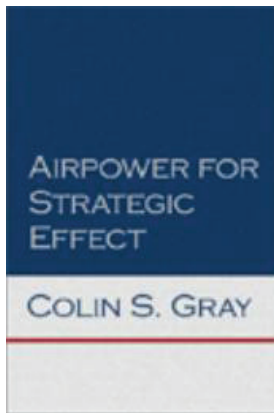
Dr Sanu Kainikara is the air power strategist at the RAAF's Air Power Development Centre. He is the author of 11 books and has published numerous papers on national security, military strategy and air power in a number of professional periodicals, including the *ADF Journal*.

In his latest publication, Kainikara has returned 'strategy' to its military roots by analysing a spread of military strategies aligned to national objectives with an emphasis on air power. He argues that with the national interests of nation states no longer constrained by physical boundaries, those states that have cutting-edge air power technology as a resource are best placed to utilise these strategies in support of their overall 'grand strategy'.

Air power is one element of a whole-of-nation approach to serving the national interest, and Kainikara addresses four strategies that are aligned to national objectives. These are *influence and shape*, *deterrence*, *coercion* and *punishment*. In addressing each strategy, Kainikara outlines the opportunities and challenges they represent in order to gain an acceptable political outcome. In weighing up the considerations, he argues that the employment of air power through the application of these strategies offers a more precise and less complicated 'tool' for a diplomatic outcome that promotes a nation's interests.

Dr Kainikara's monograph debunks many of the critics of air power by providing common sense, practical measures on how a highly capable air force can be employed in various roles in support of diplomatic measures. It is recommended reading for anyone who is either associated with, or has a general interest in, air power.

In summary, Dr Kainikara has provided an international standard by which air power can be assessed against strategies aimed at promoting the interests and security outlook of a nation. Overall, it is well written and follows a line of argument that provides a practical guide on how air power can be applied in the national interest.



Airpower for Strategic Effect

Colin S. Gray

Air University Press, Air Force Research Institute, Maxwell

Air Force Base, Alabama

366 pp, bibliography, index

ISBN: 978-1478392262 (paperback), 978-1780397856 (hardback), [e](#)

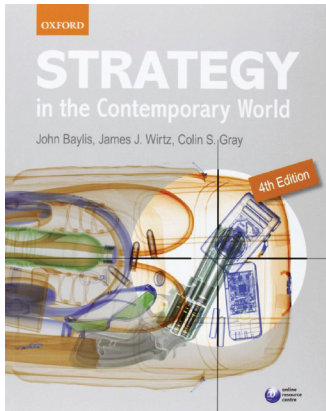
Airpower for Strategic Effect is a strategic interpretation of the past and present history of air power and it critically analyses the decisions regarding, and changes made to, how air power is used and perceived. Colin Gray considers a number of view points from the obvious

strategic perspective but also includes political, cultural, and technological contexts.

To quote from the book itself: 'The domain of this book is airpower regarded from three interlocking perspectives: theory (and doctrine), historical practice, and deliberately faintly, contemporary defense issues.'

The first perspective situates our current understanding or misunderstanding of air power. It goes on to explain how strategic ideas relate to strategic practice and how the grand narrative of the air power century needs to be reviewed in the context of the relations among the different geographies of war (land, sea, air, orbital space, and now cyberspace). The second perspective, which covers the main part of the book, contains the narrative outlining the record of air power strategy throughout history. In the third perspective, air power theory is broken into 27 dicta that rewrite the strategic theory of air power in light of evidence from the preceding look at air power history.

This book will challenge some of the enduring beliefs about air power. The text shows how air power's advocates often inadvertently have harmed the case for their preferred military instrument. Gray argues that when sensibly viewed, the history of air power is one of strategic success, only failing when misused.



Strategy in the Contemporary World

John Baylis, James J. Wirtz, Colin S. Gray

Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK, 4th edition 2013

454 pp, Contributors, notes, bibliography, index

ISBN: 978-0199694785 (paperback) , e

Divided into three parts—Enduring Issues of Strategy, Contemporary Problems, and The Future of Strategy—*Strategy in the Contemporary World* provides broad coverage of strategic topics such as cyberpower, irregular warfare, peace operations, homeland security and weapons of mass destruction.

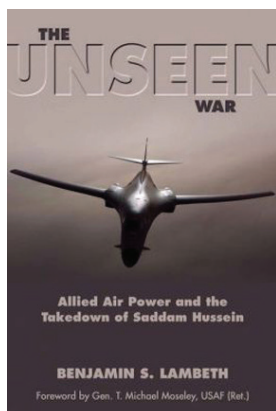
It is structured as a text book which makes it easy to select a desired topic, go to the appropriate chapter, examine the key point boxes and delve further into the topic by reading more of the chapter, including figures and vignettes.

The book's text book nature also prevents it from becoming bogged down on any one particular topic. It is quite simple to browse through the book and gain an appreciation of the issues affecting an aspect of strategy by reading the particular page-long sections that pique your interest or are relevant to your area of study. Each chapter ends with questions relevant to the topic, suggestions for further reading, and web links.

The authors make reference to traditional past military strategists such as Clausewitz, Sun Tzu and Mao. They also draw on information from contemporary writers with relevant expertise, thereby providing a good mixture of old and new theories and perspectives. First published in 2002, successive updates mean that this most recent edition has maintained relevance with the changing strategic environment.

Given the content of this book, it is likely to be most engaging for staff course candidates/graduates and anyone undertaking senior PMET subjects. It is also commended to anyone with an interest in gaining a broad appreciation of global strategic topics that would prefer to read relevant and concise sections rather than an entire book on one particular topic.

AIR POWER ISSUES



The Unseen War

Benjamin S. Lambeth

Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, MD, 2013

480 pp, figures, maps, charts, notes, bibliography index

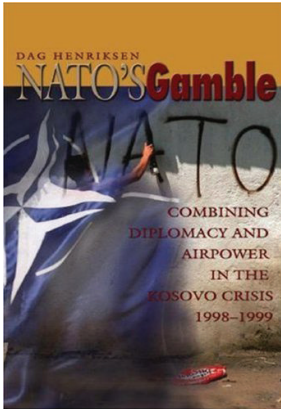
ISBN: 978-1612513119 (paperback), [e](#)

In *The Unseen War* Dr Ben Lambeth provides a comprehensive reconstruction of the Operation *Iraqi Freedom* air offensive, shedding light on the air campaign in 'a case-book example of successful joint and combined warfare at the operational and tactical levels.' Dr Lambeth notes that the 2003 air campaign was an 'Unseen War' in that the world saw the conflict through the eyes of

journalists embedded in ground forces, subsequently missing the contribution of the air component. Dr Lambeth seeks to address this by providing a detailed and insightful account of the air aspects of the war, and in doing so has provided an outstanding resource for anyone with an interest in the utility and application of modern air power.

The wide range of topics addressed in *The Unseen War* includes critical subjects such as joint and air component planning, the lead-up and execution of air operations, as well as key accomplishments and problems that were encountered. Notably, Dr Lambeth provides some detailed perspectives on the integration of the UK and Australian forces into the coalition and the interaction between the land and air components. He provides many references to the RAAF throughout the book, and his analysis of the land and air forces makes *The Unseen War* an essential text for those with an interest in planning and conducting effective joint operations.

The Unseen War is focussed predominantly on the operational level of war, and as a result is an essential text for practitioners at that level, particularly those undertaking Command and Staff College. However, the range of topics and detailed observations make *The Unseen War* a particularly useful and informative read for military professionals at all levels.



NATO's Gamble: Combining Diplomacy and Airpower in the Kosovo Crisis 1998-1999

Dag Henriksen

Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, MD, 2007

304 pp, photographs, figures, maps, notes, bibliography, index

ISBN: 978-1591143581 (paperback), 978-1591143550 (hardback), [e](#)

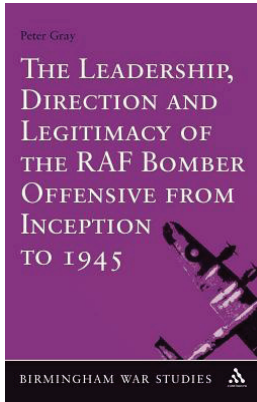
In March 1999, NATO conducted a 78-day air campaign as part of an international effort to stop the Milosevic Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia conducting military and ethnic cleansing operations within Kosovo. When the campaign was concluded it was generally claimed to have been the first time in history that NATO had gone to war, the first time air strikes were used against a sovereign nation for committing atrocities within its own borders, and the first time air power alone had successfully won a conflict. Known as Operation *Allied Force*, the 78-day campaign has been long considered a success based on the desired end state being achieved.

NATO's Gamble is a more critical study of the NATO operation than previously published works. Henriksen studies the process of decision-making by the member Governments of NATO, in particular the US, and how in the absence of a clear strategy and plan, NATO was directed to participate in a strategy of coercive diplomacy against the Milosevic regime.

Henriksen argues that the decisions of the member Governments were flawed, that there was a lack of a clear high level strategy directing operations and that NATO was found to have been seriously unprepared to conduct the low level form of operations it was called on to execute in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In arguing his case, Henriksen takes a long view of US foreign policy and the use of force, and sets it against the evolving crisis in Kosovo and the emerging response from the West.

While at times appearing overly critical, and seemingly arguing an already established opinion, the selected information Henriksen presents provides a number of lessons in the role of governments, diplomats and the military during periods of conflict in which diplomacy and military action are key components in achieving strategic aims.

COMMAND, LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT & ETHICS



The Leadership, Direction and Legitimacy of the RAF Bomber Offensive from Inception to 1945

Peter Gray

Birmingham War Studies Series, Bloomsbury Publishing,
London, 2012

368 pp, notes, appendices, bibliography, index

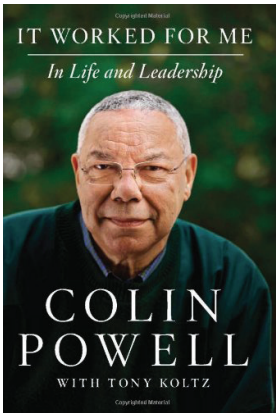
ISBN: 978-1472532824 (paperback), 978-1441135209

(hardback), **e**

Peter Gray's book looks to engage in the debate of the strategic bomber offensive against Germany during World War II. It covers the decisions made before the outbreak of the War up to and including the grand combined allied bomber offensives in the latter part of the war, with a focus on the development of air power during that time. However this is not a book just about the allied bomber offensives against Germany, it also examines a number of more general themes.

The first chapter explores the relationship between strategy and direction and its importance to leadership. The second chapter examines the intellectual context in which the new Royal Air Force (RAF) developed and the background behind some of the early decisions. Chapters three and four examine the organisational context of the interwar years where the survival of the new RAF was paramount. It also looks at the challenges facing the senior leadership in a time when independent military aviation was facing complete abolition and the threat of Germany was growing. Chapter five covers the years at war when Bomber Command was effectively impotent. It also looks at the challenges faced by senior leaders in aligning the vision of the air offensive with the advent of area bombing. Chapter six examines the grand strategic levels and analyses the relationship between the senior leaders of Britain and America both before and after Pearl Harbor. Chapter seven looks at the interface between the strategic and operational levels within the RAF. The final chapter concludes by examining the senior leadership from the inception of the offensive through to the end of the war.

Gray adds a fresh perspective to a well documented part of history of World War II. While the perspective is mostly from the allied side there are some enlightening insights to what the Germans were thinking and doing and how they were responding during this period.



It Worked For Me: In Life and Leadership

Colin Powell with Tony Koltz

Harper Collins, New York, 2012

304 pp

ISBN: 978-0062135131 (paperback), 978-0062135124

(hardback), **e**

Colin Luther Powell is a retired American statesman and four-star general in the United States Army. During his military career, Powell served as National Security Advisor, as Commander of the United States Army Forces Command and as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He was United States Secretary of State, serving

under United States President George W. Bush.

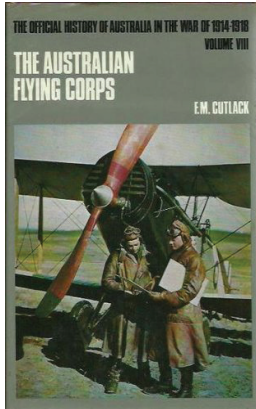
It Worked for Me is Colin Powell's autobiography and is a valuable read for all Air Force personnel of all ranks. It is a book about leadership and lessons in life that General Powell picked up throughout his long and distinguished career in the United States Army and during his time working for the President of the United States. It is easy to read and provides real everyday examples to support Powell's thoughts and ideas.

Unlike many other autobiographies it can either be read from front to back cover or by individual chapters or parts. Especially insightful is chapter one 'My thirteen rules' and the afterword 'It's all about people.'

The book also shows the lighter side of being a celebrity. At one prominent event a lady recognised General Powell but not as General Powell. When General Powell told the lady who he was she replied "no that's not it", associating him with someone he believes he bears little resemblance to, although he does seem to think that he looks a little like Denzel Washington.

One particular quote from Admiral Hyman G. Rickover that stands out among the many throughout the book and it stands true today 'Organizations don't get things done. Plans and programs don't get things done. Only people get things done. Organizations, plans and programs either help or hinder people.' This quote helped shape General Powell's approach to life and leadership.

AIR POWER HISTORY



The Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918: Volume VIII - The Australian Flying Corps

F.M. Cutlack

University of Queensland Press, Brisbane, 1985

560 pp, photographs, maps, glossary, appendices,
bibliography, index

ISBN: 978-0702217272 (paperback), 978-0702217271
(hardback), **e**

Volume VIII of the Official History of Australia in the War of 1914-1918, *The Australian Flying Corps* (AFC) still represents the most detailed, informative and interesting history of the earliest Australian military flying service.

This history covers three distinctive periods; the operations of the Mesopotamia Half Flight in 1915, the operations of No 1 Squadron AFC in the Middle East from its formation in 1916 until the armistice, and the operations of the three AFC squadrons—Nos 2, 3, and 4—in France from 1917 until the end of the war.

A valuable insight provided by this volume is the early careers of many who became the leaders of the Royal Australian Air Force upon its formation and who would also have a significant influence on the RAAF's operations during World War II. Some of these people include; Williams, Jones, Anderson, Drummond, Cobby, Cole and Wackett.

Cutlack explains the development of air warfare and also includes detailed annexes on a variety of subjects such as the capabilities of various fighting aircraft, the integration of air with land operations, and the use of incendiary bullets. He also explains how air fighting tactics developed over the war in each of the major theatres. The text is liberally supported with photographs and maps that add to the reader's appreciation and understanding of the events described. The experience of the individual aircrew is also frequently reported, often using their own words from diaries, letters and post-flight reports.

The Australian Flying Corps is an engrossing and enjoyable read that is aimed at the lay reader. With the centenary of World War I and ANZAC this volume of the Official History is wholeheartedly recommended as a fitting memorial to the aviation pioneers of Australian military flying and their achievements.

Even though this is a very old book—originally published in 1923—it can still be obtained from a variety of sources, including second hand booksellers and reproduction services (many via Amazon). There is also a PDF version available on the Australian War Memorial website, and perhaps most importantly, a new edition that is anticipated for the World War I centenary celebrations (eBook, hardcopy or both).



Air Force: Inside the New Era of Australian Air Power

Ian McPhedran

Harper Collins, Sydney, 2011

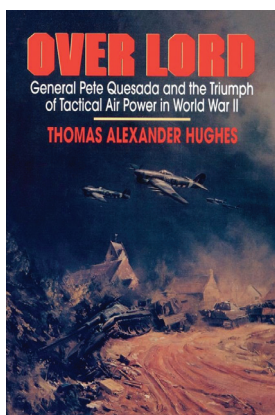
374 pp, photographs, glossary, index

ISBN: 978-0732290252 (paperback), **e**

The writing of *Air Force* by the journalist Ian McPhedran was facilitated by two former Chiefs of Air Force, Angus Houston and Mark Binskin. McPhedran was given access to a wide range of Air Force personnel whom he interviewed in their working environments both here in Australia and while on overseas deployments.

In *Air Force* McPhedran's approach is to provide some basic information about the RAAF's aircraft but to highlight the greater capability that results from the combination of the human and materiel components of the RAAF. This is accomplished through a series of vignettes drawn from real experience on operations as told by the participants who were there. These scenarios are spread around the world and involve: fighter pilots over Iraq; airlift crews and medical teams responding to the aftermath of the Bali bombings; Orion crews conducting surveillance over Australia's maritime approaches, and also overland ISR in support of ground convoys in Afghanistan; operators in the Middle East Combined Air Operations Centre; JTACs on the ground in Afghanistan; as well as air battle managers and air traffic controllers in Kandahar. But this is not all; there are many other events, incidents and points of view that are brought out throughout the book.

One highlight of the book is the perspective provided by interviewees of these many and varied situations which differs greatly from what one often reads in newspapers or views on television at the height of a crisis. The measured, professional approach of the RAAF's personnel stands out and leaves the reader feeling like the conduct of Australian military air operations has been entrusted to capable hands. This is an enjoyable, informative read that provides a good description of the RAAF as it marked its 90th anniversary in 2011.



Over Lord: General Pete Quesada and the Triumph of Tactical Air Power in World War II

Thomas Alexander Hughes

The Free Press, New York, 1995

396 pp, photographs, maps, notes, bibliography, index

ISBN: 978-0743247832 (paperback), 978-0029153512

(hardback), [e](#)

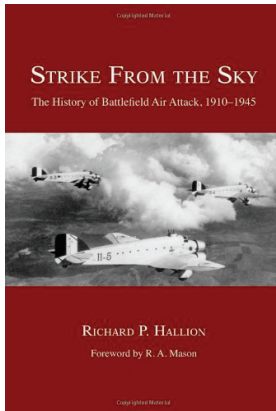
In this, the 70th anniversary of Operation *Overlord*, it is somewhat poignant that one of the real drivers of the success of tactical air power support in the 1944 Allied invasion of Europe is so poorly known. Omar Bradley, Commander US First Army in 1944, rated General Pete Quesada as the fourth most important US General in the campaign to reclaim Western Europe, well above any other USAAF Generals. Yet Quesada's name and story are not well published or discussed.

Over Lord does much more than detail Quesada's contribution to the tactical air power support of the invasion of Normandy and the following European campaign. Hughes tells the full story of Quesada's career from the mid-1920s until his retirement in 1949. In doing so, Hughes provides a sound insight into the development of Army Air Corps/USAAF air power theory and doctrine in the lead up to World War II and explains the genesis of the poor performance of US tactical air power in Africa in 1943.

Hughes' detailed coverage of US tactical air power in Africa, the Mediterranean, Italy and France from early 1943 to the successes of late 1944 not only shows Quesada's significant contribution to the establishment of successful tactical air power support to ground forces, it also facilitates good understanding of the difficulties in doctrine, command, interoperability, personality and allied relationships that needed to be overcome.

The final chapters of *Over Lord* cover Quesada's fall from grace after the war, his difficult relationship with the new USAF Chief of Staff, Hoyt Vandenburg, and his ultimate dismissal in 1949. Quesada's career demise is closely linked to the decline of USAF support to tactical air power in favour of Strategic Air Command and the nuclear mission. The final chapters also provide a good insight into the genesis of USAF tactical air power deficiencies in Korea and Vietnam.

Over Lord is well written, researched and easy to read. It is commended as an insightful overview not only of the career and achievements of one of the great tactical air power leaders but also of the difficult birth of tactical air support to ground forces in World War II.



Strike From the Sky: The History of Battlefield Air Attack 1910–1945

Richard P. Hallion

University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa, AL, 2010

392 pp, photographs, maps, charts, glossary, notes, bibliography, index

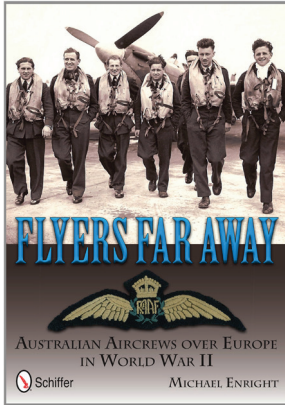
ISBN: 978-0817356576 (paperback), 978-0817385439 (hardback), **e**

A well researched and superbly written book, *Strike From the Sky* details the history of battlefield air attack and close air support from 1910 to 1945. Hallion's approach has been to chronologically detail the employment of air power from its emergence as a viable military tool in 1910 to the sophisticated capability for battlefield air interdiction it had become by 1945.

The text is broken down into four parts, covering: the emergence of military aviation in the World War I; small conflicts of the interwar years; Abyssinia, Spain and the war in Asia; and World War II. The great strength of the book is that Hallion does not just focus on the aircraft, aircrews or commanders. Instead he considers all of the factors which have an influence on the failure or successes of air/land campaigns from the era. Factors such as aircraft types and capability, command and control structures, doctrine, weapons and their effects on prosecuting the air/land campaign form key aspects of the study. This wider analysis of all factors results in a well rounded critical assessment of the employment of air power in what had become a highly integrated military enterprise.

The assessment of command and control structures and how such structures impact on campaign planning, operational execution and tactical effects is particularly insightful. In considering battlefield air attack across the operational and tactical spectrum, Hallion provides a must read for anyone interested in the application of air power in the joint environment.

While reprinted as a new 2010 edition, the book remains largely unchanged from the 1989 first edition with only minor changes in text and illustrations. This is unfortunate as the epilogue, 'Where we have come, where are we, where are we going', in which Hallion considers the relevance of past experience on contemporary thinking, suffers from not considering conflicts post-1989 and the advances in a wide range of military technologies that have occurred since then.



Flyers Far Away: Australian Aircrews over Europe in World War II

Michael Enright

Schiffer Publishing, Atglen, PA, 2012

192 pp, photographs, glossary, index

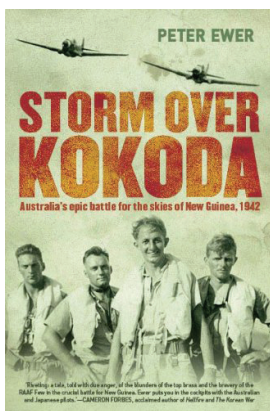
ISBN: 978-0764342707 (hardback)

Many stories relating to the achievements of RAAF aircrew over Europe during World War II are well known and published—mainly the epic stories of RAAF aircrew courage, endurance and sacrifice in Bomber Command. However, while the story of Bomber Command is well covered in *Flyers Far Away*, what sets

this book apart is the comprehensive coverage of all RAAF aircrew involvement in Europe in World War II.

The contributions of RAAF aircrew to Coastal Command in the UK throughout the War, Fighter Command, 38 Group, and the 2nd Tactical Air Force are all covered in detail. Enright strikes an excellent balance between historical narrative and relevant personal accounts. The result is both a sweeping summary of RAAF aircrew involvement in the air war in Europe and a collection of very personal stories that give a good understanding of what the aircrew endured and how they lived.

Flyers Far Away is well structured and illustrated and any particular area of interest can be easily found. However the most important contribution of this work is the holistic coverage of all aspects of the RAAF story in Europe during World War II. Hence, *Flyers Far Way* should be read in its entirety to enable a full understanding of the RAAF's contribution to the air war in Europe.



Storm over Kokoda

Peter Ewer

Murdoch Books, Millers Point, NSW, 2011

256 pp, photographs, maps, notes, bibliography index

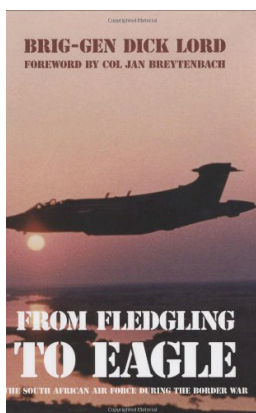
ISBN: 978-1742660950 (paperback), **e**

Storm over Kokoda focuses on the battles fought by Australian airmen in Catalina, Hudson, Kittyhawk and Wirraway aircraft in the very first air battles against the Japanese in the South-West Pacific Theatre during World War II. The period covers the start of the Pacific war until the Battle of the Coral Sea. Ewer argues that just as with Churchill's 'few' of Battle of Britain fame, so Australia

owes a great deal to the Australian 'few' who confronted the Japanese advance and forced them into ever-larger attempts to conquer New Guinea. These attempts were the amphibious assault on Port Moresby, which were defeated by the US Navy at the Battle of the Coral Sea, and the overland attacks on Port Moresby, which were defeated by the Australian Army on the Kokoda Track and at Milne Bay.

The story of the early Pacific air battles is told in the participants own words in most situations and leaves the reader with an impression of bravery in the face of overwhelming opposition. The experience of Catalina crews flying reconnaissance missions in the face of proficient enemy defences armed only with World War I vintage Lewis machine guns that regularly jammed—and the strike efforts of the Hudson crews flying in small numbers during daylight against Japanese fighter defences that often outnumbered them—leaves the reader wondering how the aircrews motivated themselves to keep going. The book also provides a lengthier retelling of No 75 Squadron's air defence of Port Moresby, detailing the fate of the squadron over the period from mid-March to early May 1942, after the Battle of the Coral Sea.

The book focuses on the tactical level of combat and provides a clear description of the early air battles over New Guinea. It also describes the human impact the battles had on the airmen and their families. It is an interesting read that addresses often neglected, but highly important, Australian air battles of World War II.



From Fledgling to Eagle: The South African Air Force during the Border War

Brigadier-General Dick Lord

30 Degrees South Publishers, Johannesburg, South Africa, 2008

544 pp, figures, maps, glossary, appendices, bibliography index

ISBN: 978-1920143305 (hardback), [e](#)

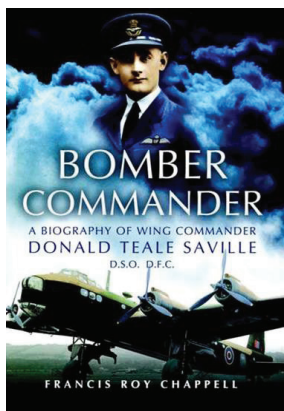
In *From Fledgling to Eagle* Dick Lord recounts the experience of the South African Air Force (SAAF) during the Border War between South Africa and its neighbours from 1966 to 1989. Lord's experience in that conflict includes: piloting Mirage F1 aircraft in operations; commanding the fast jet force in No 10 Sector; Mobile Air Operations Team leader with land forces; and, after promotion, assuming the position of Officer Commanding all SAAF units within No 10 sector.

Lord's story presents a wealth of information concerning the SAAF's operations and highlights the attributes of innovation, ingenuity and adaptability of the SAAF as it countered the growing hostile actions of its opponents—from insurgency through to conventional conflict. These attributes are evidenced by examples he provides of the development of tactics, organisation and joint operations.

Lord stresses the 'jointness' of the fielded forces as a major reason for the South African successes achieved in the war. He also highlights the importance to South Africa of the contribution its scientific and industrial sectors provided through the development of new platforms and capabilities. While Lord covers South African successes he also reviews the failures—or 'lemon' operations as he calls them—to identify changes required by the SAAF and to highlight the tactics and successes of his opponents.

This is not a dry retelling of dates and events as Lord includes personal anecdotes that deliver a personal sense to the narrative. For example, he describes his involvement in an impromptu rogue elephant hunt and his preference when in ground-based command positions for not using a callsign when speaking to aircraft, preferring instead to announce himself with, "this is the voice of the Lord". *From Fledgling to Eagle* is an enjoyable read that is both interesting and informative.

BIOGRAPHIES & MEMOIRS



Bomber Commander: A Biography of Wing Commander Donald Teale Saville

Francis Roy Chappell

Pen and Sword, Barnsley, England, 2004

194 pp, appendices, bibliography, index

ISBN: 978-1844150922 (hardback), [e](#)

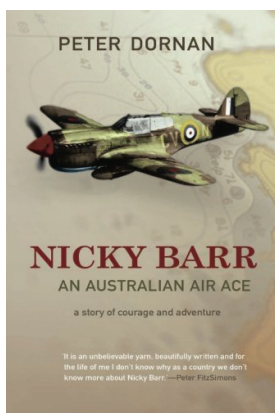
Bomber Commander has been written by Donald Saville's wartime friend and Intelligence Officer at No 104 Squadron RAF, Roy Chappell. Chappell provides considerable detail of Saville's family circumstances, his early life and upbringing in Australia and his training as a pilot in the early years of the RAAF during the 1920s.

The story follows Saville and the other members of his course as they are posted to Britain to gain additional experience of modern aircraft and European conditions with the RAF. Upon his return to Australia during the depression years of the early 1930s, Saville was unsuccessful in obtaining a hard-to-get permanent RAAF commission and so made his living as a flying instructor and airline pilot.

Saville returned to Europe in August 1939 to further his aviation career but with the advent of war in September of that year he applied for—and was accepted into—the RAF Volunteer Reserve. Because of his age and wealth of experience on a variety of aircraft Saville was initially employed as a ferry pilot. However, in August 1941 he was able to arrange a transfer to Bomber Command.

Saville served with No 12 Squadron (RAF) and No 458 Squadron (RAAF) on Wellington bombers and rose to the position of Flight Commander before taking command of No 104 Squadron (RAF) in August 1942 and completing an operational tour in the Mediterranean Theatre. Posted back to Britain in March 1943, Saville took command of No 218 Squadron (RAF) operating Stirling bombers and was killed in operations on 25 July 1943.

Chappell recounts details of each of Saville's operational flights, highlighting the leadership qualities that Saville demonstrated and the impact it had on the crews of his squadrons. Chappell's style is a plain retelling of the circumstances and events which some may find 'dry' but he also provides interesting detail on inter-war RAAF/RAF training and early Australian aviation, as well as RAAF/RAF bombing operations in both the European and Mediterranean theatres in World War II.



Nicky Barr: An Australian Air Ace

Peter Dornan

Allen & Unwin, Crows Nest, NSW, 2005

312 pp, maps

ISBN: 978-1741145298 (paperback), **e**

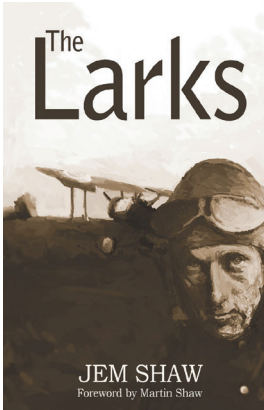
The tale of Nicky Barr's wartime experience as a fighter pilot, escapee and co-opted special operations agent makes for exciting reading and appears to be a fantastic retelling of a fictional 'Biggles' or Boys Own' story, except that it all really occurred. Peter Dornan has provided a detailed description of Barr's story and does a good job of transporting the reader into the cockpit during combat

and also describing the exhausting conditions that No 3 Squadron RAAF faced in the Middle East during Rommel's offensive in the middle part of 1942.

Barr's experience as a prisoner of war and escapee as well as his involvement with the resistance and SAS units is also described in some detail and well depicts the unique pressures those circumstances exerted upon him as he struggled, and eventually succeeded, in returning to allied lines. Another interesting event in Barr's story is his very brief encounter with Generals Eisenhower, Clark and Patton just prior to the D-Day landings in 1944.

Dornan's lack of military experience appears at times—particularly his description of the 0.5mm armament of the Kittyhawk—but overall it does not get in the way of this well written retelling of a 'ripping yarn'. Dornan has researched his topic well and has benefitted from extensive contact with Nicky himself before his death in 2006 at the age of 90. His admiration and affection for Barr comes out in this sympathetic portrayal of the man and his RAAF career that was truly extraordinary.

FICTION



The Larks

Jem Shaw

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, USA, 2013

390 pp

ISBN: 978-1484060834 (paperback), **e**

The Larks is the story of a young Brit, Andrew (Andy) Palmer as he arrives at his first squadron after completing his pilot training. Andy's introduction into the world of the fighter pilot is, however, put on hold due to aircraft availability and his first operational sorties are in the artillery spotting role flying the squadron's B.E.2c two-seater, accompanied by an Australian observer.

The Australian connection, developed in the middle section of the book, is an interesting exploration of the ANZAC landing at Gallipoli and some of the ground-fighting that occurs there. However, the main focus of the book remains squarely on the world of the western front fighter pilot that begins at the close of the 'Fokker Scourge' in June 1916. Andy eventually graduates to flying single seat fighter aircraft and endures the experience of harsh air-to-air combat that reveals much about him and alters his outlook and personality.

Injury removes Andy from flying duties for a time and allows him the opportunity to take leave and pursue a romantic attachment. This attachment however leads to complications as an offer for employment in an England-based training unit is engineered by the well intentioned family but ultimately causes friction when Andy eventually turns the job down and returns to France.

Throughout the book the technical expertise of the pilot-author is evident and this lends an air of authenticity to the narrative. The reader is often in the cockpit of the fighter experiencing the decisions and fears of the deadly environment and witness to the consequences of that environment on people they care about. This is a good read that maintains the reader's interest throughout. One weaker aspect of the book for some may be the sudden ending that seems to be a developing trend in recent fiction.



Wings Over Summer

Ron Powell

CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, USA, 2013

478 pp

ISBN: 978-1490319919 (paperback), **e**

Fresh out of training, Pilot Officer Alex Lowe is thrust directly into an operational squadron at RAF Biggin Hill within 11 Group at the height of the Battle of Britain. Sergeant Jack Williams is Alex's first flight commander and the book focuses on these two pilots as they engage the Luftwaffe's bombers and fighter escorts above south-east England. While the main focus is on the air combat

action, other aspects of the life of a young fighter pilot during the Battle of Britain are not ignored, indeed they add considerably to the interest of the story.

Of interest are the descriptions of the fighter control mechanism and the explanation of how the operations room functioned. The interaction of the pilots with their ground crew, who were responsible for maintaining the Spitfire, is also explored. The experience and effects of a bombing raid are addressed as are the consequences of casualties to the station's personnel. Another event is the experience of being shot down and bailing out. This leads to an assessment of the reception that German aircrew received if they were required to parachute over England and land among those whom they had dropped their bombloads on.

With 32 years experience as a RAF pilot, Powell has combined his knowledge and experience with the results of his research to give a detailed and enjoyable description of how the RAF's air defence system worked during the Battle of Britain.

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.

<http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/warden/warden-all.htm>

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.

<http://www.afhso.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100924-017.pdf>

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.

http://aupress/au/af.mil/digital/pdf/book/Davis_Paths_of_heaven.pdf

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 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>

The Mask of Command: Alexander the Great, Wellington, Ulysses S. Grant, Hitler, and the Nature of Leadership

John Keegan

Keegan's 1987 classic that considers the nature of military leadership and reviews the careers of four significant military leaders; Alexander, Wellington, Grant and Hitler to identify what makes a great leader in the unique field of military conflict.

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.

<http://www.afhso.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-100526-032.pdf>

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 Official History of Australia in the War of 1914–1918:

Volume VIII - The Australian Flying Corps

F.M. Cutlack

Still the most detailed, informative and interesting history of the earliest Australian military flying service during WWI before the formation of the RAAF.

http://www.awm.gov.au/histories/first_world_war/AWMOHWW1/AIF/Vol8/

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.

<http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/Publications/Details/437/The-Third-Brother-The-Royal-Australian-Air-Force-1921-39.aspx>

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.

<http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/Publications/Details/214/Going-Solo-The-Royal-Australian-Air-Force-19461971.aspx>

The RAAF in Vietnam: Australian Air Involvement in the Vietnam War 1962–1975

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'Loughlin (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.

<http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/publications/Details/212/The-Decisive-Factor-Air-Power-Doctrine-by-Air-Vice-Marshal-H.N.-Wrigley.aspx>

Power Plus Attitude: Ideas, Strategy and Doctrine in the Royal Australian Air Force, 1921–1991

Alan Stephens

A comprehensive overview of the evolution of Australian air power thinking. It provides an understanding of our background to inform our future.

<http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/Publications/Details/213/Power-Plus-Attitude-Ideas-Strategy-and-Docctrine-in-the-Royal-Australian-Air-Force-1921-1991.aspx>

SECTION THREE: PAST CHIEF OF AIR FORCE'S READING LISTS

2013 LIST

Air Operations in Israel's war against Hezbollah: Learning from Lebanon and Getting it Right in Gaza

Benjamin S. Lambeth, 2011, [e](#)

Contractors & War: The Transformation of US Expeditionary Operations

Christopher Kinsey and Malcolm Patterson (ed.), 2012, [e](#)

Cyber Warfare: Techniques, Tactics and Tools for Security Practitioners

John Andress and Steve Winterfeld, 2011, [e](#)

Modern Warfare, Intelligence and Deterrence: The technologies that are transforming them

Benjamin Sutherland (ed.), 2011, [e](#)

Air Commanders

John Andreas Olsen (ed.), 2013, [e](#)

The Operators: The Wild and Terrifying Inside Story of America's War in Afghanistan

Michael Hastings, 2012, [e](#)

Can Intervention Work?

Rory Stewart and Gerald Knaus, 2011, [e](#)

Ethics, Law and Military Operations

David Whetham (ed.), 2010, [e](#)

We Never Disappoint: A History of No 7 Squadron 1940-1945

Kevin Gogler, 2012, [e](#)

<http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/Publications/Details/495/We-Never-Disappoint-A-History-of-7-Squadron-1940-1945.aspx>

Hiroshima Nagasaki

Paul Ham, 2012, [e](#)

Somme Success: The Royal Flying Corps and The Battle of the Somme 1916

Peter Hart, 2012, [e](#)

A Long Goodbye: The Soviet Withdrawal from Afghanistan

Artemy Kalinovsky, 2011, **e**

Skunk Works: A Personal Memoir of My Years of Lockheed

Ben R. Rich and Leo Janos, 1994

Viper Pilot

Dan Hampton, 2012, **e**

Goshawk Squadron

Derek Robinson, 2005, **e**

The Third World War: August 1985

General, Sir John Winthrop Hackett, 1983

2012 LIST

Conceptualising Modern War: A Critical Enquiry

Karl Erik Haug and Ole Jorgen Maa (ed.), 2011

Command in Air War: Centralized Versus Decentralized Control of Combat Airpower

Michael W. Kometer, 2007, [e](#)

Losing Small Wars: British Military Failure in Iraq and Afghanistan

Frank Ledwidge, 2011, [e](#)

The Shaping of Grand Strategy: Policy, Diplomacy, and War

Williamson Murray, Richard Hart Sinnreich and James Lacey (ed.), 2011, [e](#)

Danger Close: Air Controllers in Afghanistan and Iraq

Steve Call, 2009, [e](#)

The Limits of Air Power: The American Bombing of North Vietnam

Mark Clodfelter, 2006, [e](#)

Chinese Aerospace Power: Evolving Maritime Roles

Andrew S. Erickson and Lyle J. Goldstein (ed.), 2011, [e](#)

The Nature of War in the Information Age: Clausewitzian Future

David J. Lonsdale, 2004, [e](#)

The Mission, the Men and Me: Lessons from a former Delta Force Commander

Pete Blaber, 2010, [e](#)

Leading Outside the Lines – How to Mobilize the (in)Formal Organization, Energize Your Team, and Get Better Results

Jon R. Katzenbach and Zia Khan, 2010, [e](#)

The Geography of Thought: How Asians And Westerners Think Differently... And Why

Richard E. Nisbett, 2004, [e](#)

Darwin Spitfires: The Real Battle for Australia

Anthony Cooper, 2011, [e](#)

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

Gjert Lage Dyndal, 2012, [e](#)

Fortress Rabaul: The Battle for the Southwest Pacific, January 1942 - April 1943

Bruce Gamble, 2010, [e](#)

Whispering Death: Australian Airmen in the Pacific War

Mark Johnston, 2011, [e](#)

Down to Earth: the Autobiography of Air Marshal David Evans, AC, DSO, AFC

S.D. Evans, 2011, **e**

<http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/Publications/Details/439/Down-to-Earth.aspx>.

Mr Double Seven

George Odgers, 2008, **e**

<http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/Publications/Details/228/Mr-Double-Seven.aspx>.

Lost Without Trace

Leon Kane-Maguire, 2011, **e**

<http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/Publications/Details/471/Lost-Without-Trace.aspx>.

Sagittarius Rising

Cecil Lewis, 1936

No Moon Tonight

Don Charlwood, 2004

Kelly: More Than My Share of It All

Clarence Johnson with Maggie Smith, 1989, **e**

Red Storm Rising

Tom Clancy, 2009, **e**

Flight of the Intruder

Stephen Coonts, 2006

Great Flying Stories

Frederick Forsyth (ed.), 1992

2011 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

<http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/Publications/Details/370/The-Art-of-Air-Power.aspx>

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

Richard A. Clarke and Robert K. Knake, 2010, **e**

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

Just War: The Just War Tradition - Ethics in Modern Warfare

Charles Guthrie and Michael Quinlan, 2007, **e**

Obama's Wars

Bob Woodward, 2010

The Private Air Marshal: A Biography of Air Marshal Sir George Jones, KBE, CB, DFC

Peter Helson, 2010

<http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/Publications/Details/425/The-Private-Air-Marshal.aspx>

From Controversy to Cutting Edge: A History of the F-111 in Australian Service

Mark Lax, 2010

<http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/Publications/Details/431/From-Controversy-to-Cutting-Edge.aspx>

Fire in the Sky: The Australian Flying Corps in the First World War

Michael Molkentin, 2010, [e](#)

2010 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

http://aupress.au.af.mil/digital/pdf/paper/ap_0001.dunlap_shortchanging_joint_fight.pdf

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](#)

