



Air Marshal Geoff Brown, AO  
Chief of Air Force

# Chief of Air Force's Reading List

2015

**AIR FORCE**







CHIEF OF AIR FORCE

# CHIEF OF AIR FORCE'S READING LIST 2015



**Air Marshal Geoff Brown, AO  
June 2015**

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### **National Library of Australia Cataloguing-in-Publication entry**

ISSN 1839-230X



### **Published by:**

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CANBERRA BC ACT 2610, AUSTRALIA

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# PREFACE

*But quality of work can be expected only through personal satisfaction, dedication and enjoyment. In our profession, precision and perfection are not a dispensable luxury, but a simple necessity.*

Niklaus Wirth<sup>1</sup>

As Director of the Air Power Development Centre (APDC) I have the distinct pleasure of regularly meeting Air Force personnel who teach air power for Professional Military Education and Training (PMET) and other courses, when they come to the APDC for our Air Power Trainers Course. It is rewarding to see the interest in air power knowledge that is evident in all of them. It is a constant reminder that air power is a vital topic worthy of study as well as being something that can be personally rewarding. As Australia's military air power practitioners our responsibility is to thoroughly understand our core profession – be it engineer, technician, imagery analyst, logistician, training systems officer etc. – and to specialise in, and focus our expertise for, the generation of superior military air power for the nation.

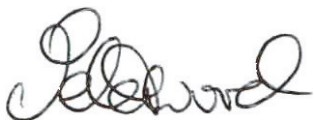
The *Chief of Air Force's Reading List 2015* is set in a time that is both the beginning of significant and essential Air Force transformation under *Plan Jericho* and the commemoration of Australia's involvement in World War I. Several texts in the 'Concepts, Strategy and Doctrine' and 'Air Power Issues' sections of the reading list provide ideas and food for thought relevant to our Jericho journey. In connection with the centenary commemoration, a range of publications based on new research and fresh perspectives are included. Two works; *Centenary History of Australia and the Great War: Volume 1 Australia and the War in the Air*, and a new APDC publication *An Interesting Point*, are in this year's reading list and have also been placed in the list of enduring works under the Royal Australian Air Force History section.

The 2015 Reading List continues the format of previous years and consists of three 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 can form the foundation of a professional library for every Air Force member, as well as those in the broader community with an interest in air power. The final section enumerates the 2010–2014 reading lists.

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1 Profession Quotes (n.d.). *Brainyquote.com*. Retrieved 12 May, 2015, from Brainyquote.com website: <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/keywords/profession.html>

The *Chief of Air Force's Reading List 2015* is obviously not exhaustive and suggestions by readers for future inclusions or improvements are always 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

June 2015

# FOREWORD

*Change will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time. We are the ones we've been waiting for. We are the change that we seek.*

Barack Obama<sup>2</sup>

Air power is a continually evolving capability. Accordingly, Air Force launched *Plan Jericho* in February to review and optimise all aspects of Air Force's operations, concepts and support processes. Jericho will develop a transformation strategy that will deliver an integrated Air Force capable of fighting and winning now and in the future: a force that is agile and adaptive, fully immersed in the information age, and truly joint. Such a transformation is required to ensure the enhanced capabilities we have now, and the technologically sophisticated systems that we are acquiring, such as F-35 Lightning II, EA-18G Growler, MQ-4C Triton, E-7A Wedgetail and the P-8A Poseidon are all enabled to create the best joint effect. Without accepting such change, we will not be able to take full advantage of the technology edge we are acquiring.

Professional mastery, an essential element required to enable the outcomes we seek from Air Force's transformation, is developed through independent study and research and is not acquired by formal military education alone. This reading list is designed to be an aid to the required professional development of all Air Force personnel. The important role reading plays in professional development is exemplified by one of the great captains of history, Napoleon Bonaparte. Napoleon was described by a contemporary as a 'devourer of books'<sup>3</sup> and he later wrote, 'read and meditate upon the wars of the greatest captains. This is the only means of rightly learning the science of war.'<sup>4</sup>

Professional mastery also has a more personal aspect to it that we often overlook. As a master of your profession you will more effectively discharge your duty to the Air Force, government and nation. You will also provide the best chance of success, and ultimately survival, for those who serve with you in the various uniforms of the ADF – your mates – in times of conflict. Your service will be more effective, more personally rewarding and of greater value to those who serve with you.

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2 Barack Obama speech to supporters 5 February 2008, accessed 22 April 2015 <<http://www.nytimes.com/2008/02/05/us/politics/05text-obama.html?pagewanted=print&r=0>>

3 Chandler, David, 1998, *The Campaigns of Napoleon*, Weidenfeld & Nicholson, London, p 137.

4 Ibid, p 138.

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

June 2015



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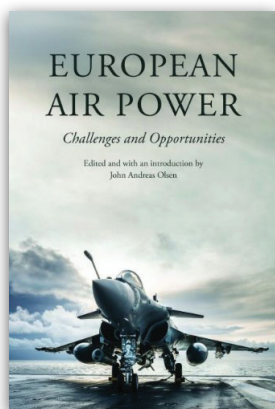
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## SECTION ONE: THE 2015 LIST

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### AIR POWER CONCEPTS, STRATEGY & DOCTRINE



#### **European Air Power: Challenges and Opportunities**

Edited by John Andreas Olsen

Potomac Books, University of Nebraska, USA, 2104

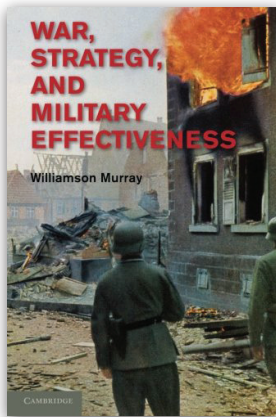
344 pp, photographs, tables, notes, bibliography, index

ISBN: (paperback) n/a, 978-1612346816 (Hardcover), e

*European Air Power* presents insights into the development of air power in the European context by examining the major air forces of Europe. The study examines the air power capabilities of eight air forces—four major European nations, including Turkey, and four Nordic countries. It covers both conceptual and operational developments, providing a somewhat mixed bag of reflections on the future of air power. This is reflective of the varied opinions of the learned authors who have contributed to the volume. Part 3 of the book titled 'Reflections: Where do we go from here' has two very readable essays by two of air power's well known commentators—Martin van Creveld, and R A Mason.

The book is valuable in assessing the future of European air power with the geo-strategic focus shifting towards the Indo-Pacific, and to understand European air power's contribution to national security in a holistic manner. John Olsen has emphasised the need to cultivate the intellectual acumen of airmen in order to maximise the effectiveness of air forces and the delivery of air power in support of national security imperatives. The book also provides food for thought regarding how the past has influenced the present, and for an analyst to consider the future in an informed manner.

This book is a 'must-read' for all serious students of air power and its developmental history, as well as for analysts considering the future of air power and air warfare.



## **War, Strategy, and Military Effectiveness**

Williamson Murray

Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, 2011

332 pp, tables, notes, index

ISBN: (paperback) 978-1107614383,

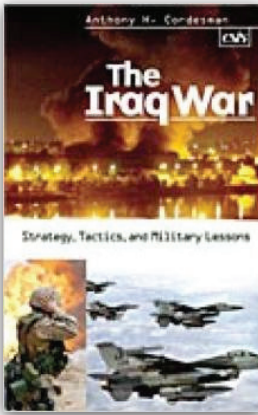
(hardback) 978-1107002425 **e**

Williamson Murray is an emeritus professor of history and former USAF officer. In this book Murray presents a collection of some of his essays and presentations that focus on military effectiveness and the factors that enhance it. The book's chapters are grouped into three parts; the importance of history in understanding the present and the future; the use of history to enhance military effectiveness; and case studies that highlight the principles developed in the first two parts.

Murray recommends Thucydides – the greatest strategic historian – and Clausewitz – the greatest theorist of war – as being of vital relevance to any understanding of war in the past, present and future. He makes the point that the past is the only laboratory we have to assess what has produced success in the fields of war, strategy and military effectiveness.

Perhaps the most interesting part of the book is the case studies. His study of the Combined Bomber Offensive (CBO) of World War II provides two intriguing findings. First, 'airmen were not receptive to the possibilities that technology and science offered.' By 1944 RAF Bomber Command could drop bombs more accurately at night than the USAAF could by day, but it remained firmly committed to the area bombing campaign. Second, "what the evidence does suggest is that a German economy, unburdened by such attacks [from the CBO] ... might have accomplished production totals close to those of the Soviet Union." Such an outcome would have had a direct and appreciable influence on the fighting in the air, on land and at sea.

*War, Strategy, and Military Effectiveness* is stimulating and rewarding, and written in a straightforward and readable manner. It is recommended for anyone interested in strategy, the relevance of history, professional military education, the development of effective military organisations and preparing for future conflict.



## **The Iraq War: Strategy, Tactics, and Military Lessons**

Anthony H. Cordesman

Center for Strategic and International Studies,

Praeger Publications, Washington, 2003

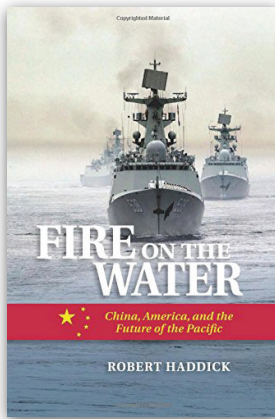
572 pp, tables, maps, notes

ISBN: (paperback) 978-0892064328,

(hardback) 978-0275982270

The western record is filled with volumes of instantaneous reflection on its involvement in war. With this in mind, does the passage of 12 years provide enough perspective with which to view the 2003 US-led coalition campaign against Iraq? Penned in the same year the coalition commenced operations, *The Iraq War: Strategy, Tactics, and Military Lessons* is surprisingly incisive in its summation of events even a decade on from the initial campaigns. Indeed, as internationally renowned military analyst Anthony Cordesman indicates, events in contemporary Iraq are an enduring legacy of the 2003 conflict, and we were forewarned in his in-depth analysis made in the immediate aftermath of the war. That the antecedent for operations in Iraq, the existence of weapons of mass destruction, was based on false information and assumptions is less important in this text than the forewarnings that Cordesman delivers. In his review of events at the time, he gives us a startlingly accurate prediction for the potential ramifications of a modern war in the Middle East.

As the year 2003 ended, the Iraqi regime was dismantled. A decades's worth of costly counter-insurgency lessons were seemingly re-learned as the west struggled to reinstate a semblance of law and order in the vacuum left by the departure of Saddam Hussein's regime. Cordesman gives much evidence of the complexity of the modern battlefield, and he points specifically to the increasing jointness and sophistication of operations in Iraq. In particular, he highlights the stunning successes of the combined arms offensives of the opening operations, the precision of integrated components, the efficacy of air power, the use of special forces, and the absolutes of modern technology. What is clear in the book is that military victory did not underwrite any meaningful or enduring nation building in Iraq. The lesson in Cordesman's words is that it is in the aftermath of kinetic operations where success lies. A must read for the forward thinking airman.



## **Fire on the Water: China, America and the Future of the Pacific**

Robert Haddick

Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, 2014

288 pp, photographs, maps, notes, bibliography, index

ISBN: (paperback) n/a, (hardback) 978-1612517957, [e](#)

*Fire on the Water* is a comprehensive assessment of a specific strategic security issue: the implications for the United States and its allies of China's military modernisation, East and South China Sea claims and, in Haddick's view, China's assertive behaviour in the near seas.

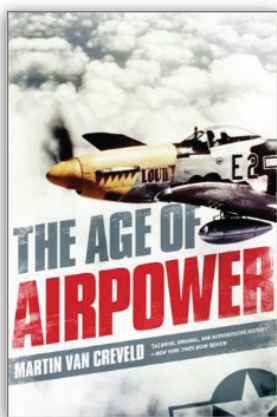
*Fire on the Water's* central argument is that China's land-based anti-access capabilities will make it impractical for the US Navy to operate in the East and South China Seas, and for US short-range combat air power to engage China's land-based systems, in a conflict from about the 2020 timeframe. Haddick outlines China's advances in, inter alia, mobile anti-ship ballistic and cruise missiles, fighter and strike aircraft with considerable range, attack submarines and surface-to-air missiles. Haddick argues that the US must change its strategy for negotiating China's rise, and rapidly change key defence investment priorities to include 'increasing long-range striking power, establishing the capability to suppress China's land based 'anti-navy' air and missile forces, and holding at risk other assets and conditions highly valued by China's leaders.'

Whilst *Fire on the Water's* focus is narrow and centred specifically on China's near seas, and possible future US and allied operations therein, there is much of relevance for air power practitioners to consider in the Australian context. Alliances, partnerships, innovation, operating concepts, technological advances, air base protection, stealth, electronic warfare, use and availability of space assets and penetration/survivability/lethality in contested environments are all canvassed by Haddick, some in detail.

*Fire on the Water* suffers from some repetition and is perhaps overly pro-US at times. Nevertheless, it is well argued, well written and makes a compelling case for change. Haddick balances his views with consideration of opposing views and alternatives, giving *Fire on the Water* a comprehensive coverage of its central thesis. *Fire on the Water* is highly commended reading for all air power professionals.



## AIR POWER ISSUES



### **The Age of Airpower**

Martin van Creveld

Published by Public Affairs, a member of the Perseus Book Group, New York 2011

441 pp, photographs, notes, index

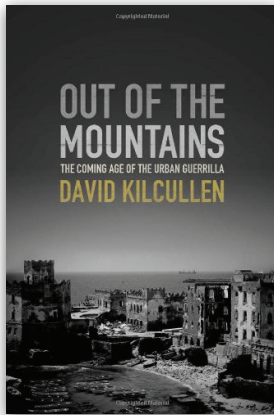
ISBN: (paperback) 978-161039108551799,

(hardback) 978-1586489816, [e](#)

Air power, more than any other capability, has shaped war in the twentieth century. In this historical narrative, Martin van Creveld charts the rise of the aircraft as a tool of war and the evolution of both technology and strategy. He documents seminal battles and turning points, and relates stories of individual daring and collective mastery of the skies.

The book has been broken up into five parts; part 1 'Into the Blue,' provides a brief introduction to the rise and evolution of air warfare until the outbreak of World War II. Part 2 'The Greatest War of All,' examines air campaigns and operations during World War II. Part 3, 'The War That Never Was,' looks at the Cold War confrontation when another war always seemed to be just around the corner, but somehow never broke out. Part 4, 'Little Wars,' deals with air warfare as it was conducted against, or by, all kinds of countries other than the superpowers during the period 1945 – 2010. Part 5, 'War Amongst the People,' examines the century-long history of attempts to use air power in all its numerous forms against uprisings, guerrilla forces, terrorism, and similar forms or religious warfare. Finally, 'Going Down,' which is the conclusion of the book drawing together the threads of the five parts to provide a glimpse into where air power is heading.

*The Age of Airpower* is a powerful read with some new perspectives on the use of air and space power throughout the twentieth century. Every aspect has been covered in some form, although, in the final case study, the conclusion appears to be very American centric and only discusses that superpower's air power and its drawdown.



## **Out of the Mountains: The Coming Age of the Urban Guerrilla**

David Kilcullen

C. Hurst & Co Publishers, London, United Kingdom, 2013

268 pp, notes, index

ISBN: (paperback) 978-0190230968,

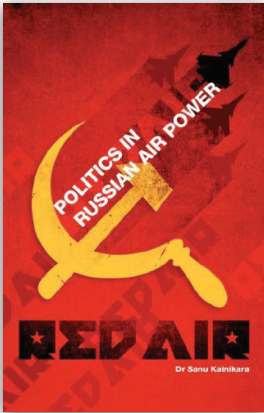
(hardback) 978-0199737505 **e**

A recent UN report estimated 54 per cent of the world's population reside in urban areas and that this will rise to 66 per cent by 2050, adding 2.5 billion to the world's urban population, with close to 90 per cent of the increase concentrated in Asia and Africa. Kilcullen's *Out of the Mountains* projects the stresses of this growth and littoral urbanisation, and predicts the future operating environment will involve increasing overlaps between state and non-state, crime and war, internal and external threats and the real and virtual worlds.

The report looks at future operating trends that can influence Army's future land force capability development and strongly echoes the megatrends outlined by Kilcullen, being rapid population growth, urbanisation, littoralisation and global networked connectivity. Kilcullen looks at how conflict will occur in dense unplanned urban centres with increasing threats from transnational crime and terrorism, and pressure on governments to provide municipal services and the infrastructure to cope with this rapid growth and change.

Kilcullen acknowledges that this is not a new area of study but that the focus of militaries over the last decade has been diverted to the remote guerrilla warfare environments faced in Iraq and Afghanistan. He argues that the trends are not new or unpredictable but that the rate of change is, and he examines the concept of urban centres as living entities which must be able to "metabolise" their inputs in order to remain stable. Kilcullen encourages a renewed strategic approach to train and prepare for this urban operational environment for future conflicts that encompass these four megatrends. From the air power perspective, Kilcullen's central thesis provides food for thought regarding the utility of air power sensors, platforms, processes and capabilities in a future joint fight in this demanding environment.





## **Red Air: Politics in Russian Air Power**

Dr Sanu Kainikara

Universal Publishers, Boca Raton, Florida, 2007

384 pp, notes, bibliography

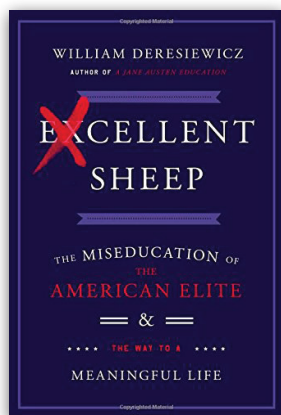
ISBN: (paperback) 978-1581129830, (hardback) n/a

In *Red Air* Dr Sanu Kainikara charts the development of air power in Imperial Russia, the Soviet Union and the present Russian state alongside the progress of air power in the rest of the world. He looks at all of the conflicts that Russian air power was involved in; World War I, the Bolshevik revolution, the Russian Civil War, the Spanish Civil War, the Russo-Finnish War, World War II, the Korean War, the Middle East wars, the Indo-Pakistani wars, and the Vietnam War. The Soviet operations in Afghanistan are not covered in detail as it was primarily an occupation activity, not war fighting and the Soviet Union—including the Red Air Force—was in decline and confusion.

Along the way Dr Kainikara explodes some commonly held myths assumed in the west about Russian air power. One is that most Soviet aircraft were technologically inferior platforms resulting from Soviet attempts to copy western types. A number of Russian designs were the best aircraft of their day, such as the Mig-15, Mig-21, Mig-29 and Su-27. Another is that Russian pilots were poorly trained in comparison with the west's standards: Dr Kainikara points out that Russian aircraft were designed to operate from readily available airfields for short mission duration. While their flying hours were only 40 per cent their western counterparts, Soviet pilots flew more sorties than western pilots which required just as much thought, effort and preparation.

Throughout the book the interplay between ideology, history, doctrine, politics and national resources is continually examined. This leads to one of the most valuable aspects of the book: an examination of turn-of-the-century Russian air power; what it is, and how it thinks today about contemporary and future warfare in the air. It also highlights how Red Air has finally moved from being the Red Army's subordinate flying artillery to the preferred Russian military force projection capability.

## COMMAND, LEADERSHIP, MANAGEMENT & ETHICS



### **Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life**

William Deresiewicz

Free Press, Sydney, 2014

256 pp

ISBN: (paperback) 978-1476702728,

(hardback) 978-1476702711, **e**

The mention of Ivy League institutions within the United States conjures up connotations such as academic excellence, selectivity in admissions, and social elitism. William Deresiewicz, a graduate of one Ivy League college, Columbia University, and a professor from another, Yale University, has learnt and taught within the American elite education system for 24 years. An education system he has called into question through his manifesto titled *Excellent Sheep*.

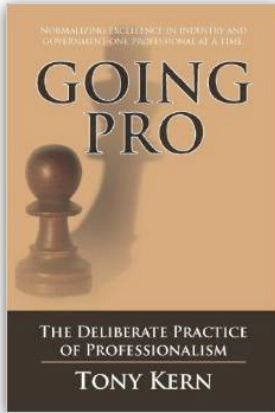
In his introduction Deresiewicz highlights that the book represents a letter to his 20-year old self of things he wished he was told to think about before starting college. The book is written in four parts. Part 1 - *Sheep*, describes Deresiewicz' view of the American elite education system which, he argues, forces students to choose between learning and success. In Part 2 - *Self*, Deresiewicz offers an alternate to the current system and discusses what college should be for, facilitating alternate ways to find your path in life and leadership. Part 3 - *Schools*, is used by Deresiewicz to espouse the value of a liberal arts education. Finally, in Part 4 - *Society*, Deresiewicz discusses the impact the elite education system is having on American society, and where a system based in meritocracy has given way to hereditary meritocracy.

*Excellent Sheep* is well written and engaging, however much of the book is drawn from selective anecdotal evidence that Deresiewicz has collected over the years. The reader needs to note this and look at the book as being more of a question based on observations that need to be studied and answered, rather than a conclusion that directs reform. The question, in this instance, is whether a hereditary meritocracy has evolved in the education of the American elite and whether that system is producing high-achievers great at short term success, but at the detriment of producing the next generation of visionaries that can contribute with purpose to a progressive America.

Deresiewicz' argument that a liberal arts education forms the foundation of a purposeful and meaningful career is directly relevant to air power professionals. His argument is that knowing how to think, by learning to learn through philosophy, as opposed to learning for an outcome along a pre-determined path,

will provide people with the skills later in life to identify, question and break down 'doxa', and give leaders the ability to reflect both through their own experience and human experience. In today's highly technical Air Force, is our education system too focussed on achieving technical mastery at the expense of individuals developing the skills to achieve professional mastery throughout their careers?

### Going Pro: The Deliberate Practice of Professionalism



Tony Kern

Pygmy Books, 2011

331 pp,

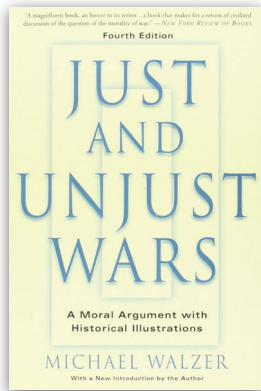
ISBN: (paperback) 978-0984206315, (hardback) n/a

Tony Kern has been writing on air power issues, with a focus on human factors, flight discipline and airmanship, for over a decade since retiring from the USAF. *Going Pro* is not specifically about air power, although some air power examples are used through the book: however, the themes of the book are relevant to all professionals who seek to be the best that they can be in their chosen profession.

*Going Pro* is well structured and Kern's style is focussed, easy to read and easy to comprehend. Relevant examples are used throughout to emphasise key points. Kern initially outlines the history of, and the case for, professionalism, before defining three levels of professionalism: Level 1, trained and competent to be a member of the profession. Level 2, one who meets full compliance with all standards required of the profession. Level 3, a *professionalist*, one who seeks the highest professional standards above and beyond what regulations require or that is expected of them.

The second half of *Going Pro* is devoted to the deliberate practice required to be a professionalist and six attributes that underpin Level 3 professionalism: Ethics, Vocational Excellence, Continuous Improvement, Professional Engagement, Professional Image and Selflessness. Kern concludes with how to approach becoming a professionalist and some thoughts on how to build a Level 3 organisation.

Kern's description of Level 3 professionalism, to be a *professionalist*, matches closely with Air Force's concept of professional mastery of air power. As such, study of *Going Pro* would be a worthwhile pursuit of all Air Force members who aspire to achieve the highest levels of professional mastery.



## **Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations**

Michael Walzer

Basic Books, New York, 2006, first published 1977

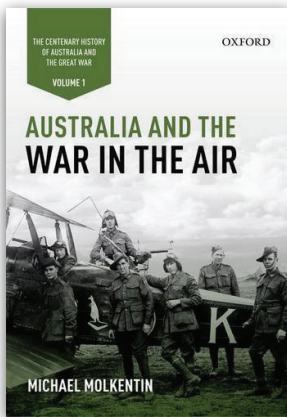
400 pp, notes, index

ISBN: (paperback) 978-0465037070, (hardback) n/a, **e**

This book was published originally in 1977 and is currently in its fourth edition. In the Foreword to the fourth edition the author compares the necessity of ‘regime change’ at the end of World War II in Germany to the regime change imposed at the end of the Iraq War in 2003. In this essay the author specifically addresses the moral issues surrounding the invasion and occupation of Iraq in 2003. The subtitle of the book ‘A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations’ springs out a more detailed analysis of war and its different aspects. Essentially the book deals with political ethics and the manner in which they influence the way in which war is thought about in the common debate. The book itself covers wars only up to the first war in Iraq (1991) but the lengthy foreword elaborates on subsequent actions.

The book is divided into five parts—the moral reality of war; the theory of aggression; the war convention; dilemmas of war; and the question of responsibility. Each part is replete with analysis of examples, which make it easy to understand the theory being explained. This is a definitive book that proves beyond doubt that it is politically and morally necessary for a nation to debate the conduct of war and the justifications behind it. This book should be ‘compulsory study’ for all persons—military and civilian alike—involved in the conduct of a war.

## AIR POWER HISTORY



### **The Centenary History of Australia and the Great War Volume 1: Australia and the War in the Air**

Michael Molkentin

Oxford University Press, Melbourne, 2014

288 pp, photographs, maps, notes, bibliography, index

ISBN: (paperback) n/a, (hardback) 978-0195576795

Released in October 2014, Michael Molkentin's *Australia and the War in the Air* is the first of a five volume history of Australia's experience of the Great War, with succeeding volumes set for periodic publication with the final volume due for release in April 2016. Conceived as a contribution to marking the centenary of the Great War 1914-18, this series of books is intended to be a 'scholarly account of the impact of one of the great formative national experiences'. In this aim the five volume series sets itself apart from the more sensationalist and populist commercial offerings that currently flood the market and loosely pass themselves off as history.

*The Centenary History of Australia and the Great War* is being written and edited by professional academic historians, and being published by the highly reputable Oxford University Press. In short, the series is set to become a valuable reference work that would supplement any military history collection, while also being a worthwhile primer for readers with little knowledge of Australia's Great War history.

This series is not intended to supplant the twelve volume official history of the Great War, edited and in a large part written, by Charles Bean. Rather it is intended to view the war from a wider perspective gained from access to records not available to Bean and his team. The newer work also differentiates itself from the earlier histories in that it takes a more strategic-operational perspective of the war, rather than recording the more personal experience of the conflict. Bean was concerned with ensuring that the story of the combatants was at the forefront of the narrative, and this approach left much of Australia's involvement in The Great War left untold. This new series aims to fill that void, thereby complementing the official history.

The first volume, *Australia and the War in the Air* by Michael Molkentin details Australia's involvement in the first great air campaigns in the history of warfare. Indeed, with military aviation employed in very few conflicts prior to the Great War, there was little appreciation of how to raise, train, sustain and employ a national air arm. Molkentin's early chapters, which look at the Australian Flying

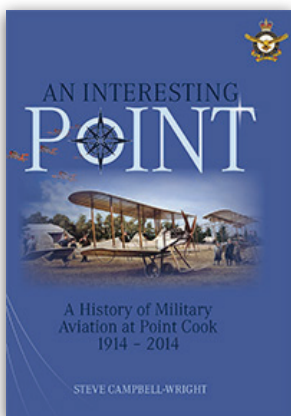
Corps' (AFC) formation, organisation and training, reflect the tentative nature of military aviation in Australia at the outbreak of war.

The AFC was a small component of a very large aviation force fielded by Great Britain, and Molkentin communicates this reality very well, including in the narrative ample description of the relationship between the AFC and the Royal Flying Corps, Royal Naval Air Service and, from April 1918, the Royal Air Force. The reality that the AFC did not operate in isolation is further expounded with detail of the role of the Australian and British Governments in the development and employment of AFC. It is in this wider view of the AFC experience that we see a marked difference between the official history—written by Frederic Cutlack and edited by Charles Bean in 1923—and that of Molkentin's *Australia in the Air War*.

In the chapters dealing with AFC operations, the air war and how it related to theatre wide efforts is captured in excellent detail and makes for good reading. The theatre wide perspective gives the reader ample appreciation of just how rapidly the air campaign became pervasive during the Great War. The book provides a ready example of the difference between simple battlefield support and the far more complex air campaigns which span whole-of-government and whole-of-conflict requirements. From the point of view of air power development alone this volume is worth studying.

Overall Molkentin has produced a very readable study covering the development, organisation and employment of the AFC in the Great War, set against a backdrop of operations with allied air arms and coalition Governments—all in an era when such concepts were in their infancy. This book and the entire five volume set, make for an important contribution to the understanding of Australia's involvement in the Great War.





## **An Interesting Point: A History of Military Aviation at Point Cook 1914-2014**

Steve Campbell-Wright

Air Power Development Centre, Canberra, 2014

242 pp, photographs, notes, bibliography, index

ISBN: (paperback) 978-1925062007, (hardback) n/a, **e**

Point Cook will always be the RAAF's spiritual home. While today it is part of RAAF Williams, for many former Air Force members and many of the general public it is still known as RAAF Base Point Cook. It is the site of the first military flight in Australia, our first and most enduring military airfield, and is the cradle of the Australian Flying Corps, its successor the Australian Air Corps (AAC) and finally the Royal Australian Air Force.

Point Cook's most significant claim though is that it is the oldest operating military airfield in the world. Consequently the history and heritage surrounding Point Cook still resonates through the Air Force. Despite its importance, few really know the full story of the base, the reason it was established where it was, its part in the development of military flying in Australia or its central role in preserving and sustaining Air Force heritage.

*An Interesting Point: A history of military aviation at Point Cook 1914-2014* by Steve Campbell-Wright provides, without any doubt, the finest and most detailed history of Point Cook available. A long time resident and passionate historian, Campbell-Wright conducted his research into Point Cook over a period of many years, working on the project until he was satisfied that he finally had the full story of each iteration of the base's development and of its employment.

In revealing the history of the base, Campbell-Wright also reveals intricate details of the formation of the Australian Flying Corps from first flight and first overseas deployment to the restructure after the Great War that ultimately led to the formation of the Air Force. In fact, so central was Point Cook to the development of military aviation in Australia until 1939, that the narrative of the base's history also encompasses the history of many of our pioneering aviators, such as Lawrence Wackett, Jimmy Goble and Ivor McIntyre.

Presented as a chronological history, the book's 11 chapters cover the full one hundred years of the base's existence. The opening chapter details the formation of the AFC, selection of its first pilots and ground crews—including where possible brief biographical details, through to the eve of the first flight at the base. Each succeeding chapter develops the story further, detailing the first flying and mechanics courses, the period of the Great War, transition from AFC to AAC and the formation of the RAAF all against a backdrop of the continual development of the base itself.

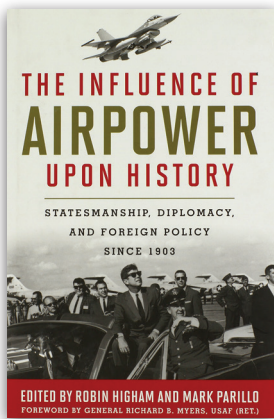
The early years of the RAAF marked a turning point in the central nature of Point Cook to the development of military aviation, due to the construction of

additional airbases around Australia. By 1939 Point Cook did not have the primary focus of RAAF operations it had enjoyed in the previous war, and Campbell-Wright has captured this shifting role and purpose of the base to perfection within the text. As the RAAF has further developed new bases, shifted resources and units, the role of Point Cook has continued to change. Campbell-Wright has ensured that the book explores the impact of each of these changes extremely well giving the book a superb narrative.

From the first chapter Campbell-Wright sustains a trend throughout the book in putting the people at the centre of the base's history. Accordingly Campbell-Wright has researched long and hard to ensure each person that enters into the Point Cook history has their story told. This approach reveals far more of the events that have taken place on the base and has opened up new and hitherto unknown aspects of life on the base.

In short, Campbell-Wright records with engaging style and detail the history of Point Cook. The narrative is sustained through the excitement of those first tenuous flights in 1914 through to the base becoming the centre of Air Force heritage it is today. Each metamorphosis has its own unique chapter and its own special story. This book is a must read for all Air Force members and anyone with an interest in Australian aviation history.





**The Influence of Airpower upon History: Statesmanship, Diplomacy and Foreign Policy Since 1903**

Edited by Robin Higham and Mark Parillo

The University Press of Kentucky, Lexington Kentucky, 2013

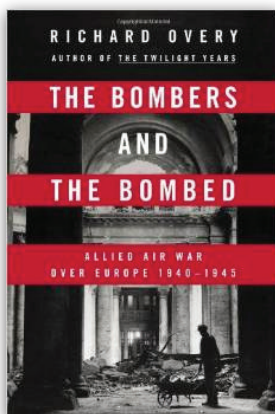
328 pp, photographs, notes, index

ISBN: (paperback) n/a, (hardback) 978- 0813136745, **e**

*The Influence of Airpower upon History* provides a series of essays of how air power has been wielded across time by various leaders around the globe. Higham and Parillo have selected a range of respected historians to write about how air power has been understood and applied by national leaders from Britain, the US, France, Russia, China, South America and other countries. The distinct differences that are highlighted between the decisions of, for example Tzar Nicholas II and Stalin in Russia or Johnson and Nixon in the US, draws out key points about the nature, strengths and weaknesses of air power that continue to be relevant today. This exercise also highlights the important strategic influence that the effect of personality has on all human activity.

Three examples from the book in particular demonstrate the influence of personality. Through his political career US President Lyndon Johnson learned to marshal support for his initiatives through the gradual application of increasing pressure, which is how he applied air power against the North Vietnamese in Operation *Rolling Thunder*. President Richard Nixon was always willing to strike his political opponents hard and mercilessly until they surrendered to his will, which is how he responded to the aggressive moves of the North Vietnamese government in Operation *Linebacker II*. Finally, Stalin always had a penchant for the gigantic and his intervention in the acquisition of bombers led to the development of the massive TB-3, ANT-16 and ANT-20 bombers, until he lost interest because of disappointing results from bombing in the Spanish Civil War, and turned his attention to tactical battlefield support instead.

*The Influence of Airpower upon History* is an excellent overview of the impact air power has had upon statesmen, the influence they have had on air power and how they have wielded the air power instrument in diplomacy and war. The bibliographies and suggestions for further research at the end of each chapter enhance the book's appeal and usefulness to all with an interest in air power. Highly recommended for students and scholars of air power, and those with a general interest in aviation.



## **The Bombers and the Bombed: Allied Air War over Europe, 1940-1945**

Richard Overy

Viking, Penguin Group, New York, 2013

562 pp, photographs, maps, notes, bibliography, index

ISBN: (paperback) 978-0143126249,

(hardback) 978-0670025152

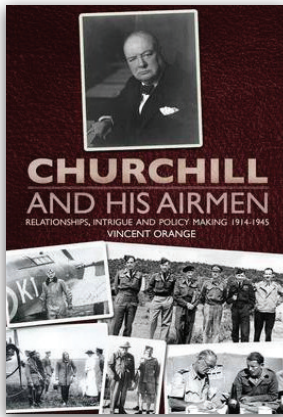
There have been many books written about the RAF/USAAF combined bomber offensive in World War II. What makes *The Bombers and the Bombed* unique is the magisterial scope. *The Bombers and the Bombed* is comprehensive in every sense. Overy covers in detail the combined bomber offensive from the start of the war until the final collapse of the Third Reich. He details all influences on the bomber offensive: political, allied, military strategic, operational, cultural, doctrinal and moral. He places the bombing offensive in context with other campaigns, alliance and political considerations, noting in particular the requirement for a 'second front' after the German invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941 and the crucial requirement to set the conditions for the success of the invasion of Normandy.

Overy looks at all those affected by the bombing offensive, with especially detailed coverage of civilian populations and industry from all bombed countries. He does not solely concentrate on the German population, though he does describe in great detail the effects on the German population and war effort. Overy also describes the effects of the bombing of occupied countries including France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Norway, Italy, Romania and Bulgaria.

*The Bombers and the Bombed* pulls no punches in discussing the controversies that still endure from the bomber offensive. The deliberate targeting of civilian population areas, the Hamburg firestorm, the carnage of Dresden so close to the end of the war, the failure to agree on and then implement a cogent combined targeting strategy, and the acceptance of incredibly heavy losses, particularly before the introduction of long-range fighter support and the effective decimation of the Luftwaffe in 1944, are all comprehensively covered.

In the end, Overy concludes that the bombing offensive failed in many of its stated aims, noting that the leaders of the offensive continued to believe that bombing would be decisive on its own long after it became evident that it would not. However, Overy finds that the bombing offensive did play an important, perhaps decisive role in undermining Germany's military capability and making the Normandy invasion possible.

*The Bombers and the Bombed* is both a very human story of the horrors of total war writ large in the greatest aerial contest of all time, both for those in the air and those on the ground, and a masterful description of all influences on the offensive. It is essential reading for all those who wish to have a deeper understanding of what happened and why in the air above Europe, both day and night, from 1939 until 1945.



## **Churchill and His Airmen: Relationships, Intrigue and Policy Making 1914-1945**

Vincent Orange

Grub Street Publishing, London

314 pp, photographs, maps, bibliography, index

ISBN: (paperback) n/a, (hardback) 978-1908117366, **e**

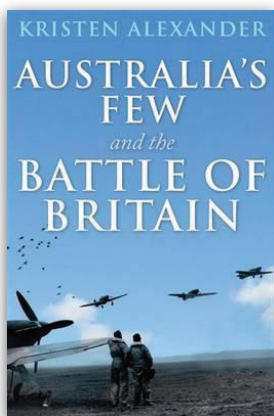
Born between the great wars in north-east England, Vincent Orange lived the majority of his life in New Zealand teaching history at the University of Canterbury at Christchurch. A scholar of air power history, he authored biographies about some of Churchill's key aviation commanders including Keith Park, Arthur Tedder and John Slessor. However, Orange's last study, *Churchill and His Airmen: Relationships, Intrigue and Policy Making 1914-1945*, caps off the author's academic and professional career as he examines Churchill's leadership and influence, specifically in the area of air power and his relationship with his air commanders.

The 23 chapters in *Churchill and His Airmen* are a sweeping account of Churchill's public service in and out of the political office from pre-World War I to post-World War II with specific reference to the Royal Air Force (RAF) and its senior leadership. From the onset of his biography, the author portrays Churchill as 'air-minded', placing him at the cusp of changing aviation technology, embracing the formation of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service and fostering the development of the RAF, including the challenges to keep it as an independent and separate service in an era of limited funding. Orange highlights the significant issues of the interwar period including the mishandling of Singapore's defence, the debate over the bomber, the outbreak of World War II and Churchill's return to political power as Prime Minister.

The most informative aspect of this biography is Orange's examination of Churchill's actions as Prime Minister and Minister of Defence. At the epicentre of operational activity, Orange systematically describes, chapter by chapter, Churchill's interactions with his leading airmen, including Hugh Dowding, Keith Park, Arthur Tedder, Arthur Coningham and John Slessor, to explain and analyse operations and campaigns throughout the war. Orange also notes that Churchill's leadership was at times lacking, specifically when it came to the relatively free hand given Hugh Trenchard and Arthur 'Bomber' Harris with his strategic bombing campaign against Germany. Regrettably, the author does not probe Churchill's relationships with them at any great length, and even more noticeably, during the later chapters of the book, Orange tends to focus more on the campaigns where Churchill had minimal contact with his air commanders.

That aside, this book will still challenge some of the enduring beliefs about Churchill, not only underscoring his major talents, but also countervailing his faults. For the most part, Orange's use of the relationships between Churchill and his 'airmen' to highlight operational triumphs is a fresh perspective and further contributes to the historical understanding of air power. *Churchill and His Airmen: Relationships, Intrigue and Policy Making 1914-1945* is recommended reading for any person interested in air power—offering controversial insights and challenging judgements on Churchill's legacy to military aviation history.

## BIOGRAPHIES & MEMOIRS



### **Australia's Few and the Battle of Britain**

Kristen Alexander

University of NSW Press Ltd, Sydney, 2014

432 pp, photographs, maps, notes, bibliography, index

ISBN: (paperback) n/a, (hardback) 978-1742234151, **e**

The Battle of Britain has long attracted writers and historians as subject matter for books and articles. In the nearly 75 years since the events of 1940 unfolded in the skies over the United Kingdom as the Luftwaffe and RAF battled for air superiority over south east England, the literary market place has been awash with books recounting various aspects of this epic contest. Kristen Alexander's *Australia's Few and the Battle of Britain* is a worthy contribution to this not insignificant body of literature.

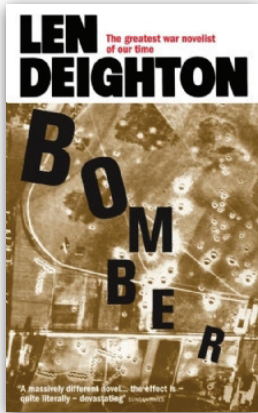
Alexander has produced a well researched and written work which looks at the experience of eight Australians who flew as part of the RAF's Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain. Rather than simply recount their personal experience of combat flying, Alexander has endeavoured to recount the pilot's journey from early life to their subsequent operational flying careers with as much detail as possible. This approach renders the pilots as complete personalities with more to them than just being fighter pilots. While this approach is commendable, some will find that as the narrative constantly shifts between each pilot it becomes difficult to feel particularly engaged with each of the eight.

In many ways the manuscript blends the attributes of biography with those of a historical reference as it recounts with some depth the life and experiences of eight Australian pilots who flew with the RAF during the Battle of Britain. The inclusion of detail of the RAF training regime, squadron routines and, to a lesser degree, the political climate means that the context of the events described in the book is as well established as the personal perspective of each of the pilots.

An additional aspect of the book is that the all-important relationship between the pilots and their families and loved ones is recounted in surprising detail. Even more importantly Alexander endeavours to communicate the impact of the pilot's service on those families and loved ones. Alexander should be congratulated on the effort she has put into ensuring that this all-to-frequently overlooked aspect of military service has been included.

If there is one aspect of this book which sets it apart from many the many others that recount the Battle of Britain it is encapsulated in the titles of the final two chapters 'Loss' and 'In Memoriam', fitting reminders of the tragic loss of at least 13 Australians in the Battle of Britain.

## FICTION



### **Bomber**

Len Deighton

Harper Collins Publishers, London 2009

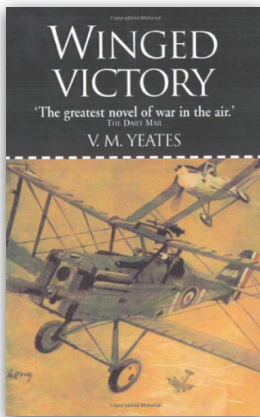
532 pp

ISBN: (paperback) 978-0-00-730587-2

This book is a work of historical fiction although it feels very real. This is a story that follows a 24-hour period of a raid conducted by an English bomber crew over Germany in World War II. This is not just a story of an English bomber crew. It is also a story of people affected by the raid; German fighter crews, the flak gunners, the German civilians, and the English family members. This feels like a story that has been meticulously researched as the characters lives are very vivid and authentic.

While this is a novel, it does feel like a documentary at times, which is not the usual style of Len Deighton. At times it can be difficult to read as there are a lot of characters to remember. One can only read this and lament the folly of war. It's ironic the way in which we recall with some nostalgia machines like the Avro Lancaster and the Junkers 88, until one comes face to face with the terror those who flew them experienced and also caused. Len Deighton captures it all, and has written a book that pays tribute to those who fought in the air war over Germany and to those who suffered on both sides.





## **Winged Victory**

Victor Yeates

Casemate Publishers, London, 2010, first published by Jonathan Cape 1934

456 pp

ISBN: (paperback) 978-1904010654,

(hardback) 978-0224608114, [e](#)

*Winged Victory* is a novel written by Victor Maslin Yeates, a Royal Flying Corps (RFC) fighter pilot who flew the Sopwith Camel with Number 46 Squadron RFC in 1918. Yeates crashed four times, was shot down twice and was credited with five enemy aircraft destroyed and is thus well qualified to write authoritatively about the war in the air of the time.

Yeates' book is considered a classic novel of the air war of the First World War, attracting widespread acclaim including from T.E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) who said of it, 'Admirable, admirable, admirable. One of the most distinguished histories of the war ... masterly'. A fighter pilot of a later generation is attributed with saying in 1941, 'The only book about flying that isn't flannel'. A fellow fighter pilot, friend and author, Henry Williamson said that *Winged Victory* was 'not only one of the best war books...but as a transcription of reality, faithful and sustained in its author's purpose of re-creating the past life he knew, it is unique'. Indeed, *Winged Victory* is often seen as a semi-autobiographical description of Yeates' war service. What makes the story more poignant is that Yeates caught tuberculosis after the war – which has been attributed to the stress of air combat – and died from it in 1934 only months after finishing *Winged Victory*.

Yeates immerses the reader in every aspect of the Western Front fighter pilot of 1918. He describes the thoughts and feelings of the pilot as he copes with air combat, deals with the terror of dangerous ground attacks at low altitude, handles the continued loss of friends, adapts to the variety of command styles employed by a succession of Squadron leadership, manages the internal stress of working with more successful 'aces', and much more. *Winged Victory* is highly recommended as an excellent avenue into the experience of First World War aerial combat.





## 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](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**

### **An Interesting Point: A History of Military Aviation at Point Cook 1914-2014**

Steve Campbell-Wright

The history of both Point Cook and the birth of military aviation in Australia

<http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/Publications/Details/561/An-Interesting-Point-A-History-of-Military-Aviation-at-Point-Cook-1914-2014.aspx>

### **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/](http://www.awm.gov.au/histories/first_world_war/AWMOHWW1/AIF/Vol8/)

### **Centenary History of Australia and the Great War: Volume 1 Australia and the War in the Air**

Complementary to Cutlack's tactical and operational volume this history looks at the AFC at a strategic level.

### **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-1946-1971.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-Doctrine-in-the-Royal-Australian-Air-Force-1921-1991.aspx>

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

### 2014 LIST

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

Sanu Kainikara, 2013, [e](#)

<http://airpower.airforce.gov.au/Publications/Details/554/The-Bolt-from-the-Blue.aspx>

#### **Airpower for Strategic Effect**

Colin S. Gray, 2012, [e](#)

<http://self.gutenberg.org/wplbn0002170893-airpower-for-strategic-effect-by-colin-s-gray.aspx?>

#### **Strategy in the Contemporary World, 4<sup>th</sup> edition**

John Baylis, James J. Writz, Colin S. Gray, [e](#)

#### **The Unseen War**

Benjamin S. Lambeth, 2013, [e](#)

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

Dag Henriksen, 2007, [e](#)

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

Peter Gray, 2012, [e](#)

#### **It Worked For Me: In Life and Leadership**

Colin Powell with Tony Koltz, 2012, [e](#)

#### **The Australian Flying Corps in the Western and Eastern Theatres of War 1914-1918**

F.M. Cutlack, 1985, [e](#)

[https://www.awm.gov.au/histories/first\\_world\\_war/AWMOHWW1/AIF/Vol8/](https://www.awm.gov.au/histories/first_world_war/AWMOHWW1/AIF/Vol8/)

#### **Air Force: Inside the New Era of Australian Air Power**

Ian McPhedran, 2011, [e](#)

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

Thomas Alexander Hughes, 1995, [e](#)

#### **Strike from the Sky: The History of Battlefield Air Attack 1910-1945**

Richard Hallion, 2010, [e](#)

#### **Flyers Far Away – Australian Air Crew over Europe in World War II**

Michael Enright, 2012

#### **Storm over Kokoda**

Peter Ewer, 2011, [e](#)

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

Brigadier-General Dick Lord, 2008, [e](#)

**Bomber Commander: A Biography of Wing Commander Donald Teale Saville**

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