

The Mighty Eighth

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from the beginning of world war two the raf's bomber command had been the only means of striking hitler's reich and its war machine the entry into the war of the united states and the subsequent arrival in the uk of the eighth air force was to more than double the allied capability the flying fortress and liberator heavy bombers were mostly flown across the atlantic by their young unblooded aircrew and many succumbed en route and never arrived flying in north europe was a different ball game from american skies and it took a considerable time before the crews familiarised themselves with the vagaries of fog low cloud rain and snow the american bombers bristled with defensive armament and elected to fly in close defensive formation during the day leaving the raf to carry out nighttime raids with the arrival of long range protective escort fighters the task became a little easier this book explains including many first hand accounts how the american bomber force helped fight to eventual victory by decimating german industry transport systems and breaking the nazi war spirit author martin bowman is one

of britain s foremost aviation historians and has written many books and articles illustrations 60 b w photographs

the me 262 was the first of its kind the first jet powered aircraft although conceived before the war with the initial plans being drawn in april 1939 the stormbird was beset with technological particularly the revolutionary engines and political difficulties resulting in it not entering combat until august 1944 with claims of nineteen downed allied aircraft the performance of the me 262 so far exceeded that of allied aircraft that on 1 sepember 1944 usAAF general carl spaatz remarked that if greater numbers of german jets appeared they could inflict losses heavy enough to force cancellation of the allied daylight bombing offensive the story of how the stormbird came to be is fascinating history and it comes to life in the hands of noted historian colin heaton told largely in the words of the german aces who flew it the me 262 stormbird provides the complete history of this remarkable airplane from the drawing boards to combat in the skies over the third reich features two forewords one by jorg czypionka me 262 night fighter pilot and another by historian and author barrett tillman

this book is the only full scale account of the strategic air offensive against germany published in the last twenty years and is the only one that treats the british and the americans with parity much of what levine writes about british operations will be unfamiliar to american readers he has stressed the importance of winning air superiority and the role of escort fighters in strategic bombing and has given more attention to the german side than most writers on air warfare have levine gets past a simple account of what we did to them and describes the target systems and german countermeasures in detail providing exact yet dramatic accounts of the great bomber operations the ruhr dams ploesti and regensburg and schweinfurt the book is broad guaged touching many matters from the development of bombing doctrine before the war to the technical development of the luftwaffe and the raf jets and v weapons to the role of the heavy bombers in supporting land and sea operations levine stresses the impact of bombing on the war and generally endorses the strategic air campaign as worthwhile and effective but he concludes that many mistakes were made by the allies both the british and the americans in tactics the development of equipment and in the selection of targets levine sees strategic bombing as a powerful tool that was often misused particularly when the doctrine of area bombing flourished scholars students and buffs interested in world war ii and or the history of aviation will find this study of great interest

coming of age during the great depression the american boys who fought in world war ii had through necessity developed a unique brand of technological resourcefulness this proficiency robert p wettemann jr contends provided gis with another weapon

in a distinctly american way of war rhino tanks and sticky bombs is wettemann s eminently readable account of how this hard won use it up wear it out make it do or do without mentality was critical to america s success giving servicemen the know how and can do spirit to creatively engineer solutions to wartime problems more than all the other soldiers in the conflict american servicemen grew up in a society where the machine was ubiquitous where enduring an unparalleled period of financial distress meant learning to keep their model ts fordson tractors or other machinery operational wettemann describes how this tinkerer s mentality promoted a technical aptitude and willingness to adapt unmatched by other armies fielded during world war ii at the same time the us command structure demonstrated a willingness to evaluate accept and employ such efforts to improve both fighting capacity and the general comfort of us servicemen seamlessly blending social military intellectual and technological history rhino tanks and sticky bombs weaves an engaging narrative about the roots of american ingenuity during world war ii and makes a compelling case for a specific instance of american distinctiveness that proved crucial to allied victory

from the training camps to the combat missions this is war from the perspective of the young americans who lived through it the pilots the bombardiers the navigators and the gunners of all the combat services in both europe and in the pacific it is an engaging and vivid portrayal of war in the skies from 1941 to 1945 craig l symonds author of world war ii at sea john c mcmanus author of the dead and those about to die and september hope reveals the terror and triumph that shared the fiery skies of world war ii from the first dogfights over europe to the last kamikaze attacks over the pacific this insightful chronicle takes readers inside the experiences of america s fighter pilots and bomber crews an incredible assortment of men who in nearly four years of warfare all over the globe suffered over 120 000 casualties with over 40 000 killed their stories span the earth into every corner of the combat theaters in both europe and the pacific and the aircraft explored are as varied tough and legendary as the men who flew them from the indomitable heavy duty warhorse that was the b 17 flying fortress to the sleek lethal p 51 mustang fighter in deadly sky master historian john c mcmanus goes beyond the familiar tales of aerial heroism capturing the sights and sounds the toil and fear the adrenaline and the pain of the american airmen who faced death with every mission in this important thoroughly researched work mcmanus uncovers the true nature of fighting and dying in the skies over world war ii

they came in waves from the schools factories farms and city streets some driven by patriotism but most with a dream bernard nolan was one of the nearly 200 000 pilots who earned his wings during world war ii nolan relates the journey of a boy with a

passion for flying airplanes how an uneducated kid from a fractured home environment weaseled his way into the armys aviation cadet program and how his deliverance through flying threatened to unravel in the cold lethal skies over europe in 1944 the author has imbedded his experiences within the context of the history of the air battle over europe in 1943 and 1944 he explores why the eighth air force lost a battle of attrition with the luftwaffe in 1943 and how and why it eventually triumphed in mid 1944 in the cockpit realism and little known details are provided in discussions of evolving technology formation assembly and flying ever changing tactics by both sides prospects for surviving aerial combat what it is like to be shot down and excellent comparisons of the two pivotal aircraft the b 24 and b 17 nolan flew both in combat

douglas brinkley presents the definitive revealing biography of an american legend renowned news anchor walter cronkite an acclaimed author and historian brinkley has drawn upon recently disclosed letters diaries and other artifacts at the recently opened cronkite archive to bring detail and depth to this deeply personal portrait he also interviewed nearly two hundred of cronkite s closest friends and colleagues including andy rooney leslie stahl barbara walters dan rather brian williams les moonves christiane amanpour katie couric bob schieffer ted turner jimmy buffett and morley safer using their voices to instill dignity and humanity in this study of one of america s most beloved and trusted public figures

includes aircraft and crews from every u s eighth air force base operational in britain in wwii the author is a leading historian

this volume looks at the history of the eighth air force in britain it covers the individual destinies the famous and notorious raids like schweinfurt regensburg and dresden the social transformation of east anglian villages by an influx of good time yanks the pow camps and the endless controversy about the ethics of bombing

could the allies have prevented the deaths of tens of thousands of holocaust victims inspired by a conference held to mark the opening of the us holocaust memorial museum this book brings together the key contributions to this debate

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