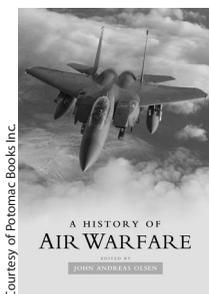


(who serves as a key advisor for the operation) or his colleague, Dr. Bentley Purchase, who, as the coroner for the St. Pancras mortuary, “bent the rules” to obtain an unclaimed, once nameless corpse (Glyndwr Michael) that masquerades as a courier lost at sea.

All of these individuals, plus a number of key players, do their part in making a fantasy become plausible in the eyes and minds of their enemy. Undeniably, the successful invasion and seizure of Sicily in the summer of 1943, with its lower than expected casualty figure of 7,000 deaths out of an invasion force of 160,000 participants, can readily be traced to the successful execution of *Operation Mincemeat*.

The author has again vividly demonstrated that the topic of World War II remains a rich subject with an enormous number of stories yet to be told. While numerous books and articles have been written on strategic deception operations in World War II, Macintyre's *Operation Mincemeat: How a Dead Man and a Bizarre Plan Fooled the Nazis and Assured an Allied Victory* is an invaluable addition to this genre and one offering fresh insight.

Macintyre's work clearly provides a cautionary note to today's strategic leaders and illustrates the importance of understanding one's enemy, of properly interpreting intelligence, and the timeless relevancy of strategic deception. It is important that today's strategic leaders be proficient in readily distinguishing between fact, fiction, and deception.



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## ***A History of Air Warfare***

edited by John Andreas Olsen

**Reviewed by Antulio J. Echevarria II**, Director of Research, Strategic Studies Institute, US Army War College

This anthology is a welcome addition to any library responsible for keeping an up-to-date collection of works addressing the history of warfare. The editor, John Andreas Olsen, has put together an exceedingly useful volume of 16 essays covering the history of air operations from the Great War to the Second Lebanon War (2006).

Several of the chapters are written by some of the most respected of air power's historians: John H. Morrow Jr. covers the First World War; Richard Overy has a chapter concerning the European theater of the Second World War; Richard R. Muller takes up the air war in the Pacific; Wayne Thompson examines air operations over North Vietnam (1965-1973); Benjamin S. Lambeth discusses Operation Enduring Freedom (2001); James S. Corum addresses air power's role in small wars; and Richard P. Hallion offers an essay arguing that technological advances have made air power essential, if not decisive, and that moving into space is the next logical step in the evolution of air power; this is an argument that air enthusiasts will surely embrace, but one that land and naval proponents might challenge.

Several other luminaries whose expertise extends well beyond the history of air power are also featured: Williamson Murray contributes an essay on air power in Operation Iraqi Freedom (2003); Martin van Creveld provides a chapter on the rise and fall of air power; and Sir Lawrence Freedman addresses air power in the Falklands War (1982). The views of scholars of such stature are always welcome regardless of the topic. Martin van Creveld's argument is particularly noteworthy because it offers a balance to Hallion's. Van Creveld maintains that the trend toward unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and remotely piloted vehicles (RPVs) combined with an increase in "low intensity conflict" mean there is no longer a compelling case for an independent air service. These two essays offer plenty of grist for debate.

In addition to these noted authorities, *A History of Air Warfare* also features essays by several accomplished practitioners and former practitioners. These consist of: Brigadier General Itai Brun of the Israeli Air Force (IAF), who contributes a chapter on air power in the Second Lebanon War (2006); Samuel L. Gordon of the IAF, who addresses air power in the Arab-Israeli wars (1967-1982); Alan Stephens of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), who covers the air war over Korea (1950-1953); Air Vice Marshal Tony Mason (Ret.) of the Royal Air Force (RAF), who assesses air power in Operation Allied Force (1999); Robert C. Owen of the US Air Force, who explores the utility of air power in Operation Deliberate Force (1995); and John Andreas Olsen of the Norwegian Air Force, who examines air power in Operation Desert Storm (1991). Brun's essay is worthy of special note, as it is a balanced and detailed case study of the 2006 campaign from the standpoint of air operations. He does not dismiss the case for capable ground forces, but rather reinforces it, highlighting the need for a coherent air operational doctrine that can close the gap between contemporary political objectives and available air capabilities. Although some IAF leaders appear to have been taken with the theory of Effects-Based Operations (EBO) and the purported efficacy of a long-range precision strike, Brun contends that the IAF did not have time to implement a new air doctrine before 2006.

*A History of Air Warfare* provides a selection of sixteen case studies that will be useful in any survey course on the history of warfare, or any course concerning the history of air power operations. The authors took care to incorporate the latest scholarship in their respective chapters, and the essays as a whole are well written. There is not a disappointing one in the lot. *A History of Air Warfare* is thus useful for students, whether civilians or military professionals, interested in air power theory and operations or who are participating in a formal education program concerning military strategy or defense studies.