

WORLD WAR II EUROPEAN BOMBING CAMPAIGN BIBLIOGRAPHY

Ambrose, Stephen E.; *The Wild Blue: The Story of the Men and Boys Who Flew the B-24's Over Germany in 1944-45***; Simon and Schuster, 2002. The only one of these books that deals with the B-24's that flew out of Italy in the latter part of the war. As a basis for his book Ambrose uses the experience of George McGovern as a 22 year old pilot of the B-24 for much of the book. I like Ambrose and thus I would recommend this. Again, note the difference between his experiences and those of the pilots who flew a year earlier.

Bowman, Martin W.; *B-17 Combat Missions: Fighters, Flak and Forts: First-Hand Accounts of Mighty 8th Operations Over Germany*; Metro Books, 2007. Takes you through a B-17 position-by-position. Mostly photos interspersed with narratives.

Bowman, Martin W.; *B-24 Combat Missions; First-Hand Accounts of Liberator Operations over Nazi Europe*; Metro Books, 2009. B-24 version of the above book.

Bruning, John R.; *Bombs Away!: The World War II Bombing Campaigns over Europe***; Zenith Press, 2011. Another in a long list of excellent books about not only the history but the human pageant of the WWII Bombing Campaigns.

Caldwell, Donald; *Day Fighters in Defence of The Reich: A War Diary, 1942-45*; Frontline Books, 2011. Unbelievable research. This book lists EVERY bombing mission into the Reich; the number of bombers, number shot down, number of German aircraft lost vs those claimed and number of US fighters lost.

Childers, Thomas; *Wings of Morning*; Perseus Books, 1995. The story of the last American bomber shot down over Germany in World War II. This is just a gem; a very well written and moving account of the author's uncle, his crew and their fate.

Comer, John; *Combat Crew: The Story of 25 Combat Missions over Germany from the Daily Journal of a B-17 Gunner***; J. Cromer, 1986. Fantastic book!!! This covers 25 missions in 1943, before the advent of the long-range fighter escorts. It is interesting to contrast his experiences with those of John Walter who flew in late 1944 and 1945.

Cowley, Robert (ed.); *No End Save Victory*; G.P. Putnam and Sons, 2001. A series of essays on WWII from a Who's Who of WWII military historians. It has two sections on the air war; one is the first-person of memories of a tail gunner and the other is an evaluation of the effectiveness of the European bombing campaign. Just a good reference on the whole war.

Craven, Wesley Frank and Cate, James Lea (eds.); *The Army Air Forces in World War II (7 vols.)*; The Office of Air Force History, 1983. More than you wanted to know about this subject. It is somewhat dated; but it still is the best source for the overall conduct of WWII by the USAAF.

Frater, Stephen; *Hell Above the Earth: The Story of an American WWII Bomber Commander and the Captain Ordered to Kill Him***; St. Martin's Press, 2011. One of the most interesting and strange stories

of the war; no, this is not fiction. Herman Goring's nephew was a B-17 pilot in WWII. The US could not afford to have him captured; I leave the rest to your imagination.

Freeman, Roger A.; *The Mighty Eighth: A History of the Units, Men and Machines of the U.S. 8th Air Force*; Cassel, 2000. A revised edition of the original 1976 edition. It is still one of the sources on this subject and was the origin of the term "Mighty Eighth".

Gehl, Wilhelm R. and Gregory, Don, *Jungvolk: The Story of a Boy Defending Hitler's Reich***; Casemate, 2008; I know, this sounds like a strange inclusion in this bibliography. However, as a very young boy he helped an AA gun crew. It offers a window into what it was like to be in Germany while the bombing was going on.

Hansen, Randall, *Fire and Fury, the Allied Bombing of Germany, 1942-1945***; NAL Caliber (Penguin Books), 2008. A good general book on the bombing; however, he is very critical of Bomber Harris and his theories of terror bombing.

Heaton, Colin D. and Lewis, Anne-Marie; *The German Aces Speak***; Zenith Press, 2011. World War II through the eyes of four of the Luftwaffe's most important commanders.,

Miller, Donald L, *Masters of the Air; America's Bomber Boys Who Fought the Air War Against Nazi Germany***; Simon and Schuster, 2006. An excellent overall history of the bombing campaign conducted by the Americans.

Mrazek, Robert J., *To Kingdom Come; An Epic Saga of Survival in the Air War Over Germany***; NAL Caliber (Penguin Books), 2011. Story of the Stuttgart Raid in 1943.

O'Neill, Brian D., *Half A Wing Three Engines and A Prayer***; McGraw-Hill, 1998. Again, a very well written history of the 303rd Bomb Group (H) AKA Hell's Angels. Covers the two Schweinfurt Raids as well as the disaster on the less well-known Oschersleben Raid.

Overy, Richard; *Why the Allies Won***; WW Norton, New York and London, 1995. A very well-written book by an excellent and knowledgeable author. He takes issue with some traditional ways of looking at the Allied victory in WWII. He has an excellent section on the effects of the strategic bombing campaign.

Overy, Richard; *The Bombing War: Europe 1939-1945***; Penguin Books, New York and London, 2013. Probably the most comprehensive treatment of all of the bombing campaigns in WWII. He includes material on the German bombing of English, European and Russian cities in WWII as well as the Allied campaign against Germany. I must warn you that it is 600+ pages of text and 125 pages of notes – it is comprehensive.

Overy, Richard; *The Bombers and the Bombed***; Penguin Books, New York and London, 2014. This book is a reduced version of the previous one. The only chapters included in this book are those relating to the Allied bombing campaign, which reduces its length to around 500 pages. If that is your only interest, this would be the one for you.

Reynolds, David; *Rich Relations; The American Occupation of Britain, 1942-1945*; Random House, 1995. A look at the Americans and their time in England. Very well done; written by an Englishman who is married to an American and spends a lot of time in the US. Excellent on the placement and size of airfields in the UK.

Schultz, Duane; *Into the Fire: Ploesti, The Most Fateful Mission of World War II***; Westholme Publishing, 2008. A well-written book about the ill-fated Ploesti raid of 1943. The author lays out all of the false assumptions and faulty intelligence that led to this raid. He portrays the courage and sacrifice of the air crews that participated.

Walter, John C.; *My War: The True Experiences of a U.S. Army Air Force Pilot in World War II***; AuthorHouse, 2004. The memoir of a B-17 pilot who was involved in the bombing in late 1944 and 1945. Very good description of the training they went through and of the clothing worn by the crew to both keep warm and keep alive. Contrast his experiences with those of John Comer.

Zaloga, Steven J.; *Operation Pointblank 1944: Defeating the Luftwaffe***; Osprey Publishing, 2011. This is a good book; but it is very heavy on statistics and short on human interest.

** These books are available in electronically.

This is by no means an exhaustive list. A quick glance through the bibliography of any one of these books will tell you that. However, I guarantee you that if you read all of these books you will know more about this subject than 99% of the rest of the country.