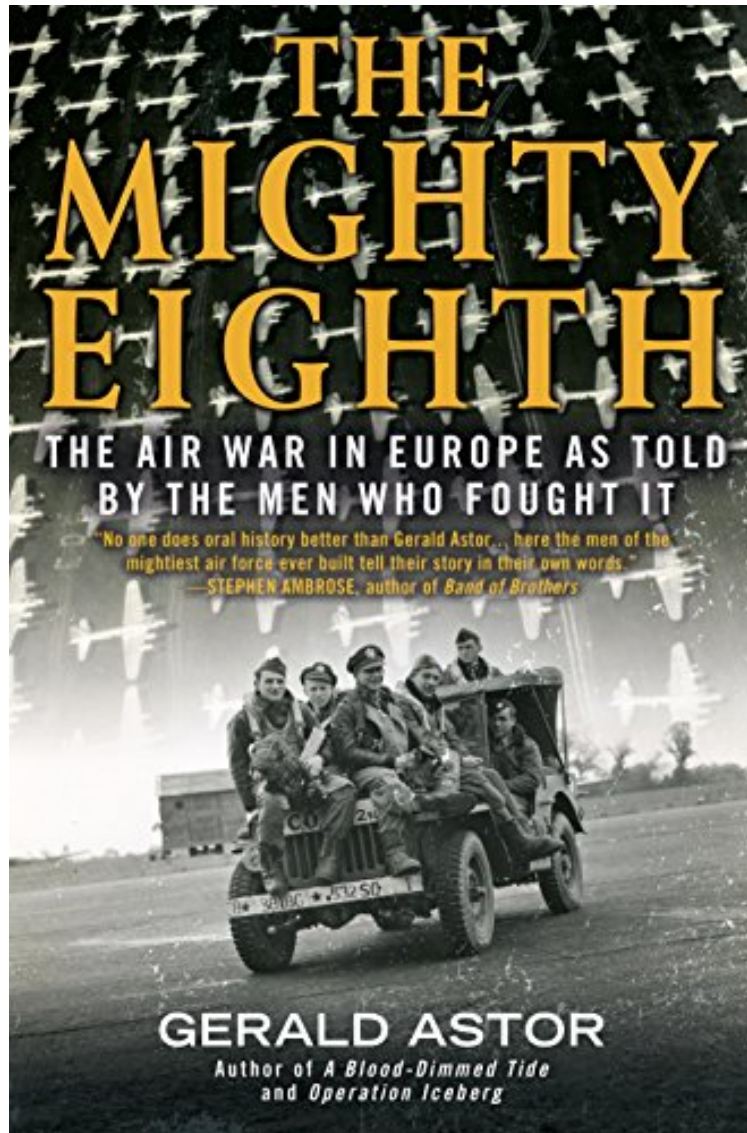


(Mobile book) The Mighty Eighth: The Air War in Europe as Told by the Men Who Fought It

# The Mighty Eighth: The Air War in Europe as Told by the Men Who Fought It

Von Gerald Astor

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**Von Gerald Astor : The Mighty Eighth: The Air War in Europe as Told by the Men Who Fought It** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Mighty Eighth: The Air War in Europe as Told by the Men Who Fought It:

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Those Magnificent Men in the Valley of DeathVon Willard C. SmithHaving both cataloged individual Oral Histories at a

University's manuscript division, and putting together a short family oral history, I can appreciate the task that Gerald Astor has taken on: the reconstruction of a military operation through oral history. The task must have been daunting because recollections can be both supporting and in conflict. The picture that Astor finally delivers is one of incredible bravery. Before 1944 the odds were against anyone completing their tour of 25 missions, primarily due to the misguided philosophy of the Army Air Corp that heavy bombers could hold their own against enemy fighter attacks. When the Air Corp finally accepted the need for long range fighter protection, the odds improved dramatically. Irregardless of the odds, these young men went up several times a week and flew 10 plus hour missions in unpressurized aircraft. I read somewhere that fighter mission were 30 minutes of boredom and 5 minutes of terror. These bombing missions must of been a lot more than 5 minutes of terror. This history covers their prewar background, their training, their missions, and how they coped with the strain. In some cases, it covers their survival after being shot down, prison camps, escapes, and the murder of airmen. While it is unfortunate that the lasting effects of these bombing missions were very minimal (much like the charge of the 500), I cannot point to any other group of Americans in history who showed more bravery when the odds were against them. I highly recommend this book.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. A magnificent tribute in their own words  
Von M3BRZ Gerald Astor uses the format, in a manner applied so effectively by Stephen Ambrose, of a series of first-person narratives to tell the story of the Eighth Air Force in WW2 Europe. Out of print following its initial hardcover run, the Mighty Eighth is that rare combination of facinating personal detail, told in the words of Amercian Aviators, presented within Astor's description of the wider historical context of the daylight strategic bombing program of the 8th Air Force. For those interested in the history of military aviation, or for students of the period unfamiliar with the air war, The Mighty Eighth is interesting and very readable.

0 von 0 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Great tribute!  
Von Ein Kunde The Mighty Eighth tells the stirring tale of the bombing campaign against Germany in WWII. I've always been fascinated by the epic airwar over Europe, in fact I've just read THE TRIUMPH AND THE GLORY, a great new novel about a B-17 pilot. But I digress . . . anyone who respects the heroism and courage all of our young men displayed during those dark days of conflict should read THE MIGHTY EIGHTH, and for that matter, any of the other great books about our gallant airmen.

Kurzbeschreibung Europe has fallen. Pearl Harbor is in flames. Enter: the Eighth. In 1941 the RAF fought a desperate battle of survival against the Luftwaffe over Britain. Then, from across the Atlantic, came a new generation of American pilots, gunners, and bombardiers, a new generation of flying machines called the B-17 Flying Fortress, the B-24 Liberator, the P-47 Thunderbolt, and the P-51 Mustang fighter. Soon these brave young men were hurtling themselves and their unproven planes across the Channel and into the teeth of enemy firepower, raining down bombs on the German military machine, and going up against Hitler's best fliers in the sky. This is the dramatic oral history of the Army Air Corps and the newly created Eighth Air Force stationed in Britain, an army of hard-fighting, hard-playing flying men who suffered more fatalities than the entire U.S. Marine Corps in the Pacific campaign of World War II. Here, in their own words, are tales of survival and soul-numbing loss, of soldiers who came together to fight a kind of war that had never been fought before--and win it with their courage and their blood. But the road to victory was paved with sacrifice. From its inaugural mission on July 4, 1942, until V-E Day, the Eighth Air Force lost more men than did the entire United States Marine Corps in all its campaigns in the Pacific. The Mighty Eighth chronicles the testimony of the pilots, bombardiers, navigators, and gunners who daily put their lives on the line. Their harrowing accounts recall the excitement and terror of dogfights against Nazi aces, maneuvering explosive-laden aircraft through deadly flak barrages, and fending off waves of enemy fighters while coping with subzero temperatures. Beginning with the opening salvos from a mere dozen planes, crewmen describe the raids on Berlin and Dresden, the fiasco at Ploesti, Romania, and Black Thursday over Schweinfurt. They fell to the terror of seeing aircraft destroyed--helplessly watching as comrades crash and burn, or parachute over enemy territory, where they will attempt to evade enemy capture through the underground. Others tell of mourning downed airmen murdered by vengeful citizens and soldiers, and of those who endured captivity in POW camps.

--Pressestimmen "Great reading." --Stephen Ambrose "Bold, brawny, epic in scope...Astor captures the fire and passion of these tens of thousands of U.S. airmen who flew through the inferno that was the bomber war over Europe." --Stephen Coonts

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