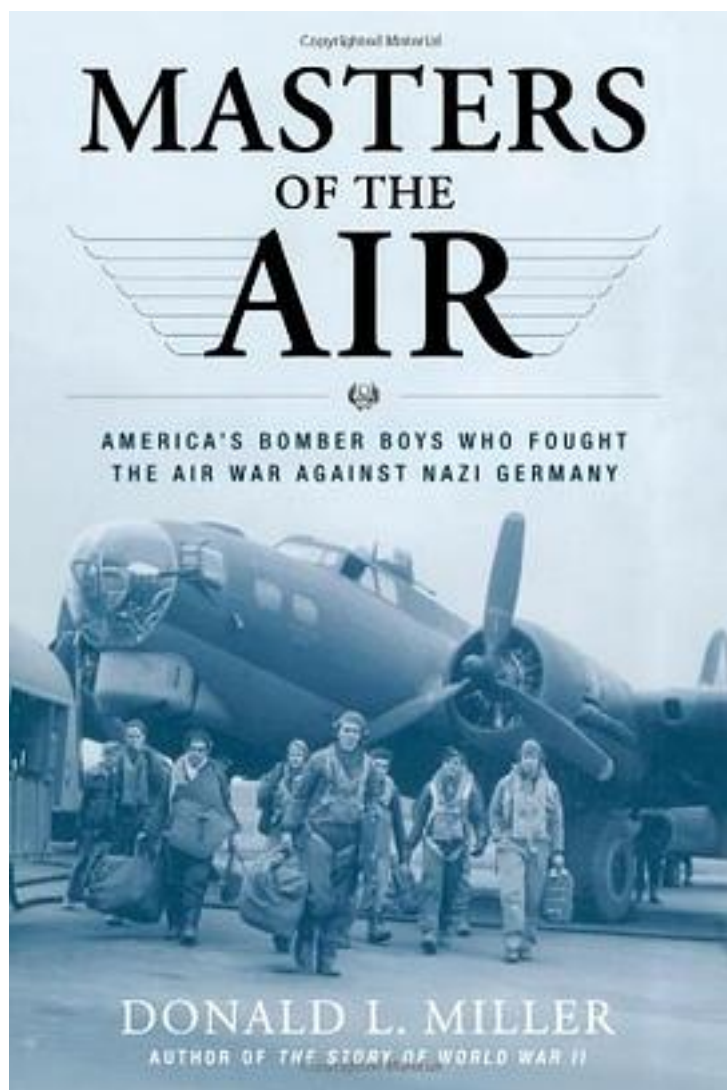


Masters of the Air



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Masters of the Air is the deeply personal story of the American bomber boys in World War II who brought the war to Hitler's doorstep. With the narrative power of fiction, Donald Miller takes readers on a harrowing ride through the fire-filled skies over Berlin, Hanover, and Dresden and describes the terrible cost of bombing for the German people. Fighting at 25,000 feet in thin, freezing air that no warriors had ever encountered before, bomber crews battled new kinds of assaults on body and mind. Air combat was deadly but intermittent: periods of inactivity and anxiety were followed by short bursts of fire and fear. Unlike infantrymen, bomber boys slept on clean sheets, drank beer in local pubs, and danced to the swing music of Glenn Miller's Air Force band, which toured U.S. air bases in England. But they had a much greater chance of dying than ground soldiers. In 1943, an American bomber crewman stood only a one-in-five chance of surviving his tour of duty, twenty-five missions. The Eighth Air Force lost more men in the war than the U.S. Marine Corps. The bomber crews were an elite group of warriors who were a microcosm of America -- white America, anyway. (African-Americans could not serve in the Eighth Air Force except in a support capacity.) The actor Jimmy Stewart was a bomber boy, and so was the "King of Hollywood," Clark Gable. And the air war was filmed by Oscar-winning director William Wyler and covered by reporters like Andy Rooney and Walter Cronkite, all of whom flew combat missions with the men. The Anglo-American bombing campaign against Nazi Germany was the longest military campaign of World War II, a war within a war. Until Allied soldiers crossed into Germany in the final months of the war, it was the only battle fought inside the German homeland. Strategic bombing did not win the war, but the war could not have been won without it. American airpower destroyed the rail facilities and oil refineries that supplied the German war machine. The bombing campaign was a shared enterprise: the British flew under the cover of night while American bombers attacked by day, a technique that British commanders thought was suicidal. Masters of the Air is a story, as well, of life in wartime England and in the German prison camps, where tens of thousands of airmen spent part of the war. It ends with a vivid description of the grisly hunger marches captured airmen were forced to make near the end of the war through the country their bombs destroyed. Drawn from recent interviews, oral histories, and American, British, German, and other archives, Masters of the Air is an authoritative, deeply moving account of the world's first and only bomber war.

作者介绍:

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评论

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书评

太平洋是用几本自传拼出来的，兄弟连原著写的比较集中。而空军这本有点近似战史，视角是战略层面的，只是在其中重点提了几个人，参考的是他们的自传小说。电视剧大概会以原著为主干，挑几个飞行员，接力当主角，类似太平洋的做法。因为几乎没有人能够作为飞行员经历整场战争，...

说到底，二战就是一场资源的消耗战，不仅仅是物质资源，更重要的还是人力资源，就看谁能耗到最后坚持到结束。第八航空队也好，英国轰炸机司令部也好，他们的战略与战术，也是错误百出，未必比德国的应对高明到哪里去，战损巨大。但是，斯帕兹等人为什么能坚持下去，最高层为何...

这是来自地狱的钟声。听众是位于20000英尺距离两端的人们。
《空中英豪》这本书，用45万字描写了美国第八航空队在欧洲战场的空中之战。书中用大量篇幅讨论了美军和英军的轰炸战略，包括到底该执行区域轰炸还是精确轰炸，包括该打击哪些目标，包括地毯式轰炸是否能够摧毁德国的...

三本书叠一起有点厚，不过看起来倒也不累。不像国内很多著作，看看考证很严谨，什么每天的战斗进程都体现出来，其实可读性极差。这书作者确实是花了很多功夫，每章后面起码6页都是引用句子的出处，相当认真啊，也占了很多纸张。其实有时间可以看一下这些引用，里面还是有些有意思...

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