

BOMBER BARONS

By Chaz Bowyer

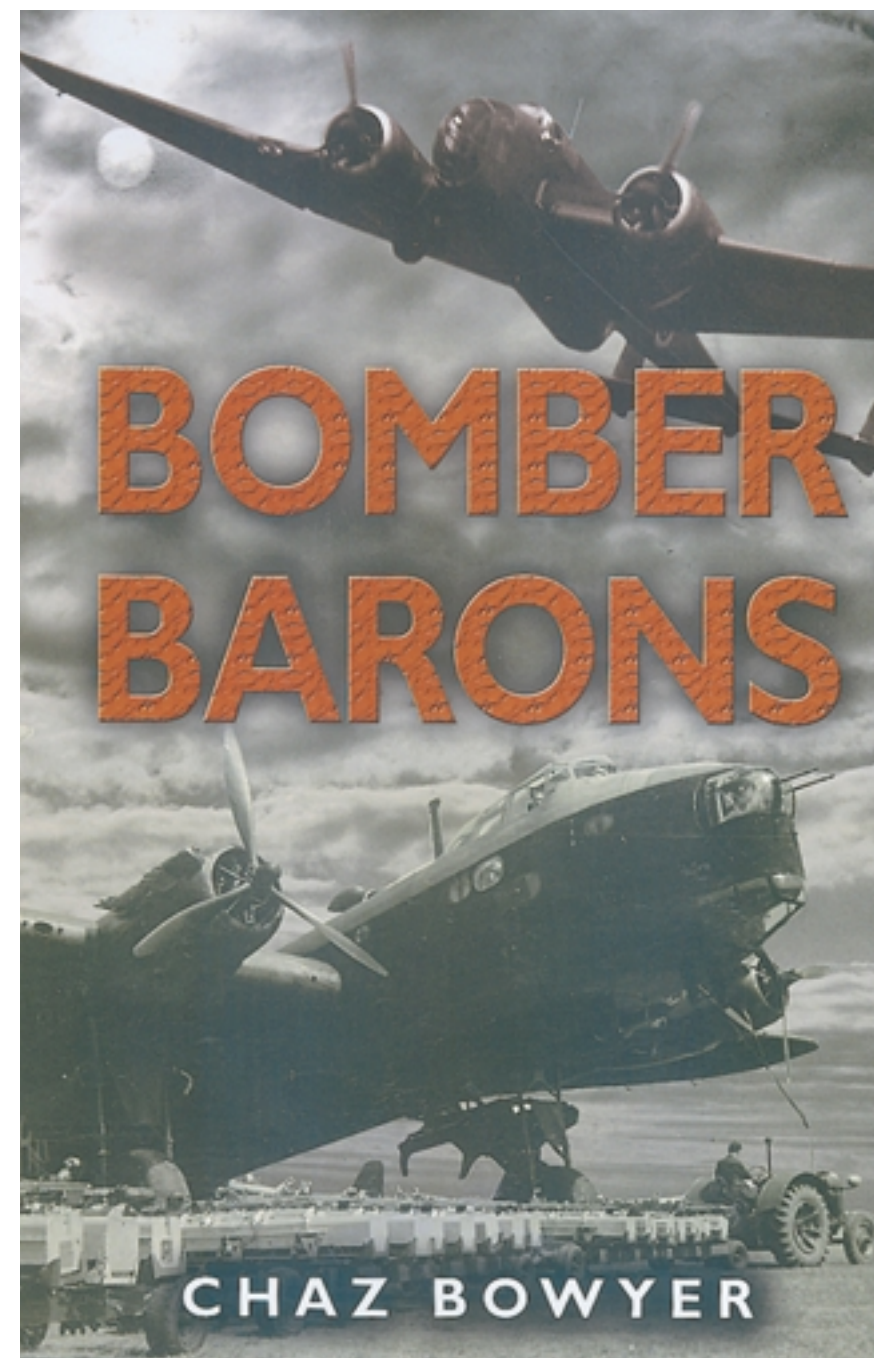
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By the end of the Second World War, a grim total of 55,000 air crew of Bomber Command had lost their lives. This figure comprised no less than seventy per cent of RAF fatalities. Yet, unlike their more glamorous fighter pilot colleagues, very few bomber pilots or crewmen were familiar household names to the general public. However, within the ranks of the RAF itself, some individuals stood out gaining high reputations for their courage and leadership, a respect achieved regardless of the decorations they had won or the number of sorties flown. These were the Bomber Barons.

In this authoritative book, Chaz Bowyer chooses a selection of these men, Leonard Cheshire, Guy Gibson, Hughie Edwards, Nick Knilans, Syd Clayton and Jo Lancaster to name but a few. For each, the author gives details of their careers and relates episodes that reflect the qualities that made them outstanding.

At the same time, the reader learns of the unfolding dramatic development of Bomber Command from the comparatively uncoordinated, non-cohesive raids of the early part of the war to the highly-trained and deadly offensive weapon it became under Sir Arthur Harris, from 1942 AOC-in-C of Bomber Command, and the Greatest Baron of them all.

Chaz Bowyer joined the RAF aged 16 as a Halton Aircraft Apprentice and went on to complete twenty-six years' regular service. After retiring voluntarily he became a full-time professional aviation history author, researcher and consultant. He has published some forty hardcover titles and hundreds of feature articles.



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