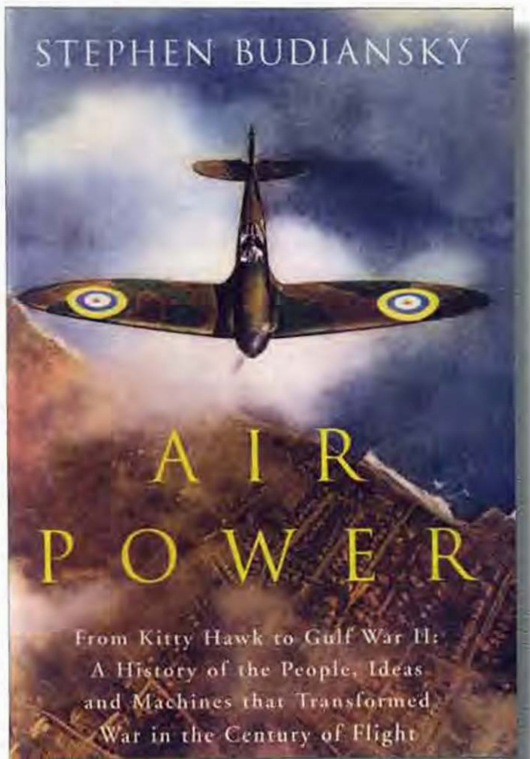


through East Grinstead left its mark, as many of them would carry a card with the instructions that 'In case of further trouble deliver the bits to Ward III, East Grinstead'.

There are few enough books around dealing with this remarkable story, and most of those that do are out of print. As a book which covers this particular area in great detail and with such authority, yet remains thoroughly readable, it is difficult to recommend it too highly to anyone who has an interest in the story of Second World War airmen beyond the public image. Dr Mayhew has done justice to all those represented in her book, be they airmen, doctors, nurses or even just the inhabitants of East Grinstead — do take the time to learn from their experiences.



## *Air Power From Kitty Hawk to Gulf War II: A History of the People, Ideas and Machines that Transformed War in the Century of Flight*

By Stephen Budiansky

London/New York, Viking Penguin, 2004.  
ISBN 0-670-91251-4. Photographs

*Reviewed by Sebastian Cox (AHB, RAF)*

Broad historical surveys require an author with a broad and deep understanding of his subject. Stephen Budiansky lacks this essential quality. His main theme, that airmen have consistently been seduced by, and exaggerated, air power's strategically decisive effect, is hardly new and has been more convincingly argued elsewhere. Budiansky reduces it to caricature. Budiansky is so relentlessly negative, indeed snide, concerning any and all airmen who believed that air power could be applied strategically, from Lord Trenchard through to Colonel John Warden, that he ultimately undermines the credibility of his own argument. His villains are painted too black; his heroes, mainly fighter/tactical airmen (Dowding, Coningham, Quesada, Horner), are usually too white. The author tends to portray the latter as free-thinking individuals who buck a relentlessly misguided trend. This grossly simplistic interpretation grows out of Budiansky's lack of appreciation of context, be it political, economic, strategic, or industrial. Devoid of any

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