



Clash of Wings: World War II in the Air

By *Walter J. Boyne*

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Boyne resurrects the war of the skies in all its heroic and tragic drama, while supplying insightful, expert conclusions about previously overlooked aspects of the war, including the essential role of American bombers in Europe; Germany's miscalculation of the number of planes required for victory; the Allies' slow start in deploying maximum air power-and why they eventually triumphed. of photos.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Boyne, novelist (*The Wild Blue*) and aviation historian (*Silver Wings*), here offers a stimulating overview of air power in WW II. While intended primarily for general readers, the account will attract specialists as well. Boyne argues that air power succeeded only when applied on a large scale, and that quality was as important as quantity. The Allies' air forces eventually numbered in the tens of thousands, with aircraft better than almost anything in the Axis arsenals. By 1944, air superiority became the necessary condition for victory in Europe and, by 1945, the decisive element in the Pacific. The author provides some surprising conclusions, among them that the Germans almost won the Battle of Britain. Photos not seen by PW.

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From Library Journal

Long-time aviation author Boyne scores with this highly readable history of air power in World War II. Emphasizing the influence of all the involved countries' leaders in the uses and development of aircraft and associated weapons, this most recent of numerous histories of the subject has an impressive scope, clarity, and insight. For example, the confused and hectic action as Japanese and American fleets maneuvered and pummeled each other at Midway in 1942 has never been described better; in a dozen pages, the vast sweep of the conflict, interspersed with significant individual air actions, finally becomes clear to the reader. With the renewed interest in our largest war revived by its 50th anniversary, this excellent history ought to get plenty of exposure.

--*Mel D. Lane, Sacramento, Cal.*

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From [Booklist](#)

Aerospace historian and novelist Boyne attempts a one-volume overview of the leaders, aircraft, technology, tactics, and strategy as well as the events of the aerial side of World War II. Knowledgeable and literate, Boyne is more successful than most at covering so large a topic in only some 400 pages. Among other things, he emphasizes the narrow margin by which the British won the Battle of Britain, the superficiality of the excellence of the Japanese air forces, and the extremely slow start of the Allies on the road to the complete air superiority they eventually achieved through a combination of greater industrial capacity and more innovative strategy and tactics. *Roland Green*

Users Review

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