



Transforming Joint Air and Space Power **The Journal of the JAPCC**



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‘Air Force Blue – The RAF in World War Two’

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By Patrick Bishop, HarperCollins Publishers, 2017

Reviewed by:

Lt Col Ed Wijninga, NLD AF, JAPCC

Created on 1 April 1918 through a merger of the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service, the Royal Air Force (RAF) is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. Written for this occasion, *'Air Force Blue'* is a book that celebrates the history of the RAF through reference to diaries, memoirs, anecdotes and interviews. It provides a detailed view of the early years of the junior service and describes how the RAF went through the struggle for survival in the period between the two World Wars. It explains how the RAF got its roundel and how the RAF's blue uniform became the model for many other countries' Air Force uniforms. The book furthermore examines the significant merits of Sir Hugh Trenchard, the so-called 'Father of the Royal Air Force'.

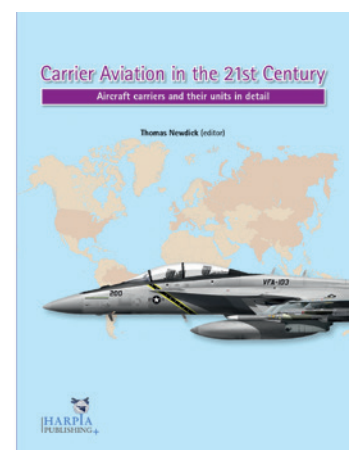
'Air Force Blue' stands as a testament to the men and women who built the Royal Air Force during its formative years and sustained it through the dark days of the Second World War, at the end of which 1.2 million personnel served in various RAF formations, to include the so-called 'Trenchards Brats', 'Brylcreem Boys' and the 'Women's Auxiliary Air Force'. All these shared the glamour, the fame but also the trials and tribulations of what became one of the most respected Air Forces in existence. Renowned RAF Historian Patrick Bishop has conducted very new and detailed research to compile this tribute to 100 years of the RAF. Already a best seller and destined to be a classic book on military history, this book is highly recommended. ●

‘Carrier Aviation in the 21st Century’

'Carrier Aviation in the 21st Century' is both an informative reference and repository of fascinating aircraft carrier history. This book reviews past ambitions and speculates on future aspirations for each country currently operating fixed-wing carriers, namely: Brazil, China, France, India, Italy, Russia, Spain, United Kingdom, and the United States. Each chapter is written by a country-specific subject matter expert. The book maintains a fluid and easy-to-read style throughout.

Every aircraft type (fixed and rotary wing) employed on aircraft carriers is included, with information on anticipated future upgrades and on operational challenges. Details on carrier-based variants of fifth-generation aircraft, including operational and tactical considerations, provide the reader with insight into how these aircraft will revolutionize future maritime air power. The book also explores the challenges associated with the carriers themselves, including maintenance schedules, operational deployments, sortie generation capabilities, and schematics of theoretical carrier battle groups. The most interesting portions of the book are the reasons for key regime choices (including Russia and China) and how they have influenced current capabilities, ambitions, and maritime air postures of those respective countries.

Overall, *'Carrier Aviation in the 21st Century'* is highly recommended for all military aviation aficionados and a 'must-read' for carrier aviation enthusiasts. ●



By Thomas Newdick, Harpia Publishing L.L.C., 2017

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