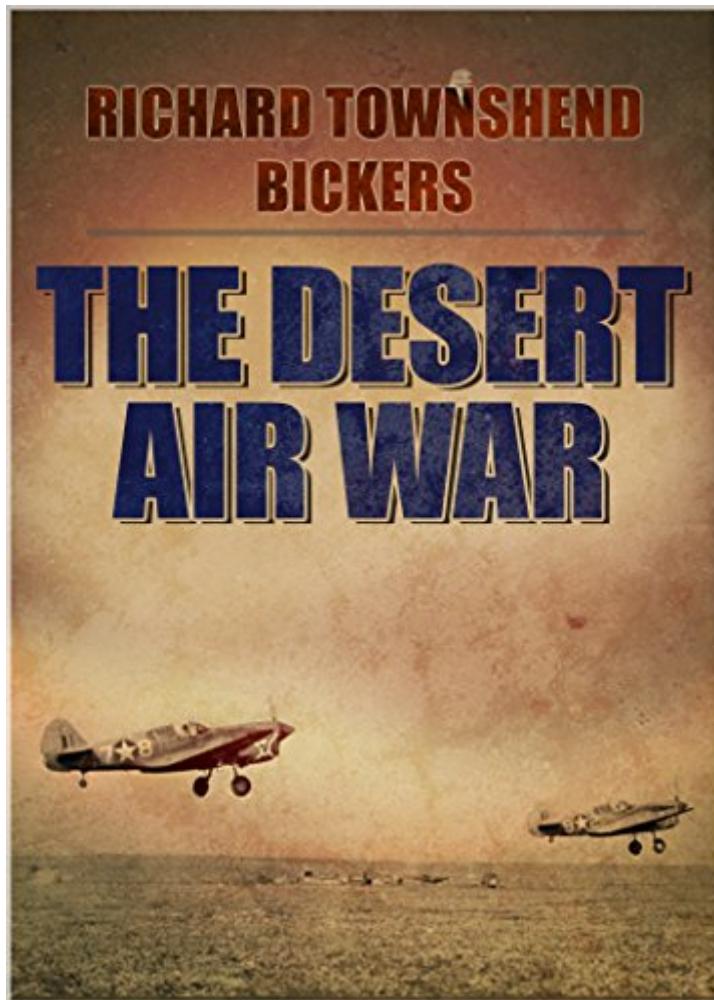


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# The Desert Air War



## Synopsis

1940. World War Two has just begun. Fighting breaks out across the continent of Europe, as Hitler and his generals face off against the French and their allies in Churchill and Montgomery. The game was set. But across the Mediterranean, another storm brews. Italy takes its chances in Northern Africa. And if it were not for the Royal Air Force, the Second World War might have had a severely different outcome. During those long months when the men on the ground went back and forth across the desert in a dizzying succession of triumphs and reverses, the men of the Royal Air Force, often woefully under equipped, struggled valiantly to keep possession of the skies under which the troops were fighting. Richard Bickers, author of several books on the history of the aerial warfare, saw the war in North Africa and Italy from both the ground and the air, and uses his own experiences, interwoven with the recollections of numerous contemporaries, to create a vivid picture of what it was like to fly, to fight and to control operations over the desert at that time. He also gives the usually ignored ground crews the full measure of the recognition due to them – ground gunners, armourers, motor transport drivers and others. In view of the fact that death was never very far away, the impression he creates of life in the Desert Air Force is surprisingly light-hearted. But, as he says, they were all very young at the time, morale was also high and nothing was to be gained by going around with a long face. An unending diet of sand and flies found compensation in the thrill of flying and the re-emergence of a kind of chivalry conjured up by this new and sophisticated form of combat. *The Desert Air War* is at once a gripping historical account of the RAF's role in North Africa during World War Two, and an endearing and empathetic portrayal of the indomitable spirit of the men who risked their lives for their country. Praise for Richard Bickers: "A valuable history of the air war that began it all" | by an ex-flyer of the Second World War who has a genuine feeling for the feats of his predecessors – THE BIRMINGHAM POST "His sympathy with the fighting man (and woman) shines out of every page" – LIVERPOOL DAILY POST Richard Townsend Bickers volunteered for the RAF on the outbreak of the second world war and served, with a Permanent Commission, for eighteen years. He wrote a range of military fiction and non-fiction books, including *Torpedo Attack*, *My Enemy Came Nigh*, *Bombing Run*, *Fighters Up* and *Summer of No Surrender*. Endeavour Press is the UK's leading independent digital publisher. For more information on our titles please sign up to our newsletter at [www.endeavourpress.com](http://www.endeavourpress.com). Each week you will receive updates on free and discounted ebooks. Follow us on Twitter: @EndeavourPress and on Facebook via <http://on.fb.me/1HweQV7>. We are always interested in hearing from our readers. Endeavour Press believes that the future is now.

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## Customer Reviews

More of a reference for researchers than a readable narrative of the RAF efforts in North Africa.

I highly recommend this work! Personal insights lend greatly to this interesting saga. I just wish there could have been more follow-up on a few of the survivors.

Excellent story of the air war in a very hostile environment

This is one of the best WW2 aviation books I've read in a while. The author paints the strategies and the movements of the theater through the stories of the participants (primarily the Desert RAF). I wish more of the author's non-fiction work was available on Kindle.

Well written; absorbing content. Good perspective on strategy and politics. Would have loved maps & photos of the aircraft mentioned in book

Interesting book with the classic bias of the author being of the group of brilliant and all others being middling. Perhaps written for a veterans group of the Desert Air Force as significant undefined slang, rumor reports and long lists of Group numbers without other significance.

Sometime s the book drags and then the author goes off on a tangent. Constant stories about how this person did this and then that, etc.

Nice, personalized picture of the air war over the Mediterranean during World War II. The author uses quite a bit of dry humor to illustrate the experience of airmen during that conflict.

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