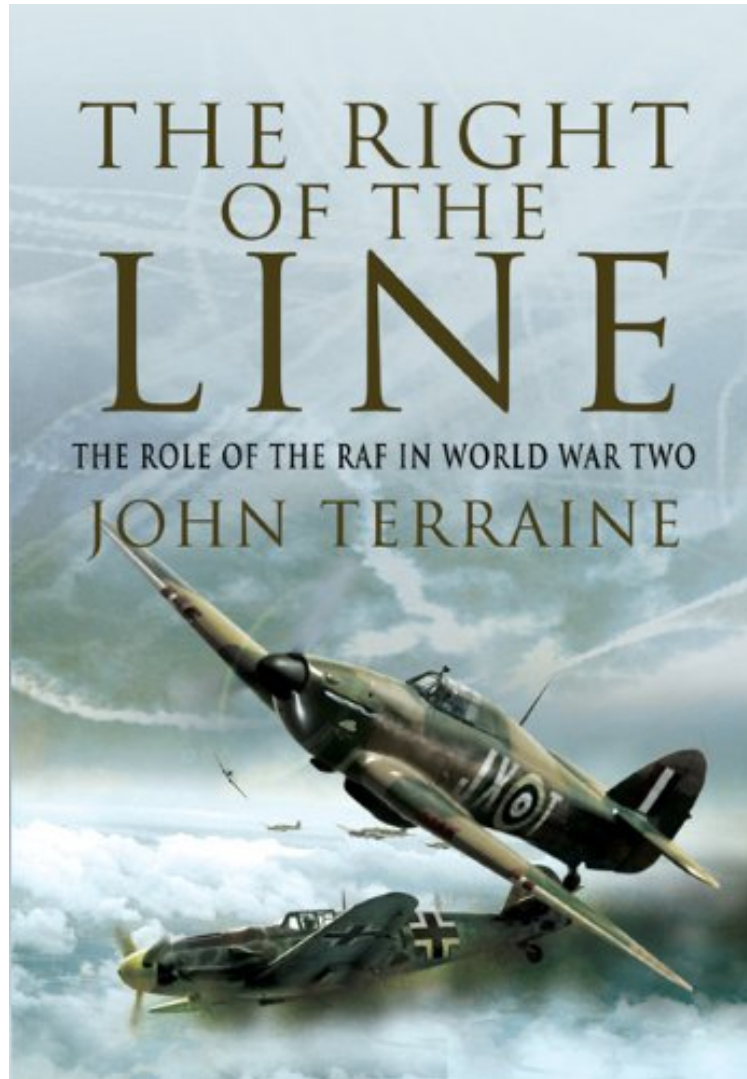


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Right of the Line: The Role of the RAF in World War Two

John Terraine

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helpful. This is THE overview history of the RAF in WW II. By Paul Johnston (johnstns@istar.ca) The eminent British historian John Terraine has produced a compelling overview of the RAF in WW II. A hefty tome (800ish pages) it covers everything. It thus covers nothing in any great detail, but it is the one place where you can find at least mention of everything. Its also exhaustively researched, and not afraid to offer (sometimes idiosyncratic) commentary. This is not a book that you're likely to sit down and read cover to cover, but all students of the RAF in WW II need to have this on their shelf. Its particularly strong on the personalities (and their opinions) of the RAF's key commanders. 0 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Far Too Much Information! By John Clayton A very good book, filled with tons and tons of information that, when detailed by Mr. Terraine, goes on and on and on. Given the PR I'd heard about the book, I wanted to get it. When it arrived I thought it was some nifty present from - but no, this mammoth, huge book that tells you (probably) more than you ever wanted -or needed - to know about the UK's RAF. As an ex-Brit (I'm now a proud US citizen!) I love the RAF, they (and their brilliant WW2 leaders like Dowding) saved GB and, indeed the world, from the madness of Hitler and his cronies. But I have most of this book's information in smaller, faster to read books. I was going to return it to , but decided to keep it as a gigantic reference work. If other WW2 buffs read this and have similar thoughts, I'd like to hear YOUR observations at jdcradio@cox.net John Clayton -

Traditionally, 'the right of the line' is the vanguard, the place of honor and greatest danger in battle. In this history of the Royal Air Force during the European War of 1939-45, John Terraine shows how the RAF, which in 1939 was small and inadequate for the task it was called upon to perform had, by the end of the war, taken up its proper position. He describes the buildup to war, the early tests in France and at Dunkirk, the Battle of Britain, the Battle of the Atlantic, the RAF in North Africa and the Mediterranean, the strategic air offensive over Germany and eventual victory in Europe