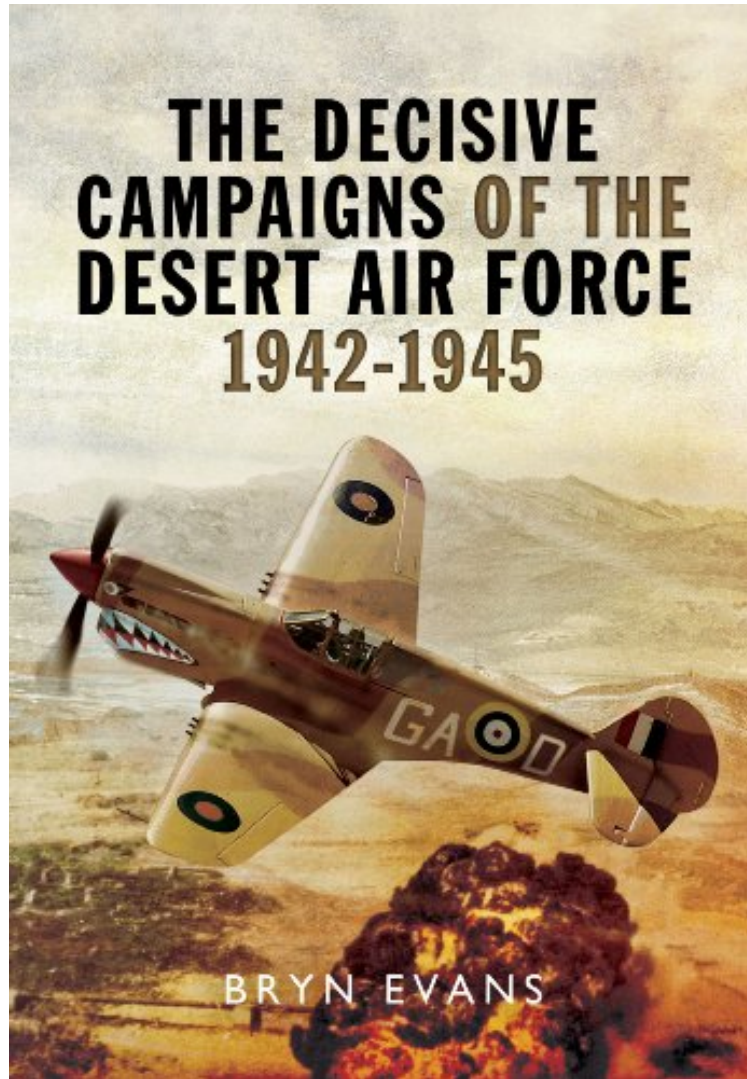


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The Decisive Campaigns of the Desert Air Force 1942 – 1945

Bryn Evans

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Bryn Evans : The Decisive Campaigns of the Desert Air Force 1942 – 1945 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Decisive Campaigns of the Desert Air Force 1942 – 1945:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Kenneth Gilla very good read.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I rate this book four stars and a fine addition to a military historian's libraryBy S. Martin SheltonEvans relates the large-scale accomplishments of the Royal Air Force in the Cyrenaica, Sicilian, and Italian campaigns in World War II. His matter-of-fact style, presents the Desert Air Force's (DAF) campaigns in a chronological, military style order. I would suggest that this book is for the military aficionado—clearly not for the

casual reader. It's a dry recitation, laced with a few personal tidbits. He offers several maps, however, not enough of them and not annotated in pertinent detail enough—making it nettlesome to follow his narrative. Such especially is the case in his narrative of the Eighth Army's campaign in southeastern Tunisia. For example, on page 73 he discusses the Army's capture of the strategic Tebaga Gap in March 1943. Unfortunately, Tebaga Gap is not spotted on the relevant map. The RAF's command of the sky over Cyrenaica and its perfected close air support technique were the deciding factors in the Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery's British Eighth Army's successful breakout at El Alamein in December in 1942. The key to victory was the DAF's total quashing of supplies for Field Marshal Erwin Rommel's Afrika Korps' Panzerarmee. In particular, it was the sinking of the two Italian supply ships in the harbor at Tobruk, Proserpina and the Tergestea that was the death knell for the retreating Afrika Korps. Allied air power had won the air war over El Alamein. Following, it was the DAF's supremacy of the air that enabled allied armies to crack the Nazi's Gustav strategic defensive line at Monte Cassino in May 1943; and the Gothic Line in the Po Valley in April 1945. Overall, I rate this book four stars and a fine addition to a military historian's library. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Recommended! By JimAn excellent and very readable summary of the activities and structure of the Desert Air Force. Recommended!

Compared to the RAF's Fighter and Bomber Commands, the Desert Air Force (DAF) is far less well known, yet its achievements were spectacular. DAF led the way in North Africa and Italy in pioneering new tactics in close Army-Air Force cooperation on the battlefield, DAF and Allied air forces gave Allied armies in North Africa and Italy a decisive cutting edge. While the Axis forces used the many rivers and mountains of Tunisia and Italy to slow the Allies' advance, DAF was there to provide that extra mobile firepower – the artillery from the sky. They were the first multinational air force, and the first to introduce air controllers in the front lines of the battlefield. With firsthand accounts by veteran airmen from Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa and the USA, this book reveals the decisive victories with which DAF won the war over North Africa, the Mediterranean and Italy in 1942-45.

About the Author Bryn Evans is a management consultant with many years' experience of finance and IT at boardroom level. He writes extensively across a wide range of categories, be it business management, travel, military history or fiction and his work has been widely published. His fiction work has earned him Second Prize in the Catherine Cookson Short Story Competition and other awards. He is the author of *With the East Surreys in Tunisia, Sicily and Italy 1942-45* and *The Decisive Campaigns of the Desert Air Force*, both in print with Pen and Sword. He lives with his wife, Jean, in Sydney, Australia.