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The Life and Death of the Luftwaffe

Werner Baumbach

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BOOKS

Elder, Robert E. *The Policy Machine: The Department of State and American Foreign Policy*. Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1960. 238.

This is a particularly valuable and significant study on the making of United States foreign policy. Its two major virtues are: First, it contains a highly detailed and specific description of the procedures through which recommendations go before becoming policy; and second, it deals more fully with the role of public opinion than any other comparable book.

Baumbach, Werner. *The Life and Death of the Luftwaffe*. New York: Coward-McCann, 1960. 224 p.

The Life and Death of the Luftwaffe describes many important milestones of the German Air Force from its inception to its agonizing defeat. The human element is most conspicuous as the story unfolds from the diary of the Luftwaffe's most notable bomber pilot, Werner Baumbach, General of the Bombers. The fatal decision of planning and preparing for a short war, inability to reconcile short-term emergencies with long-term planning, overcentralized control and erratic policy, political intrigue, exhaustion of Germany's raw materials, interservice rivalry, man power depletions, destruction of factories and facilities and failure of the last ditch secret weapons (V-1 and V-2) to turn the tide of the war are presented in a most interesting and lucid manner. The book is a most comprehensive work on the German Luftwaffe, and a halfway house to subsequent historical investigation and judgment.

Medaris, John B. *Countdown for Decision*. New York: Putnam, 1960. 303 p.

This book, a very frank and engrossing report on the United States' missile and space programs from the