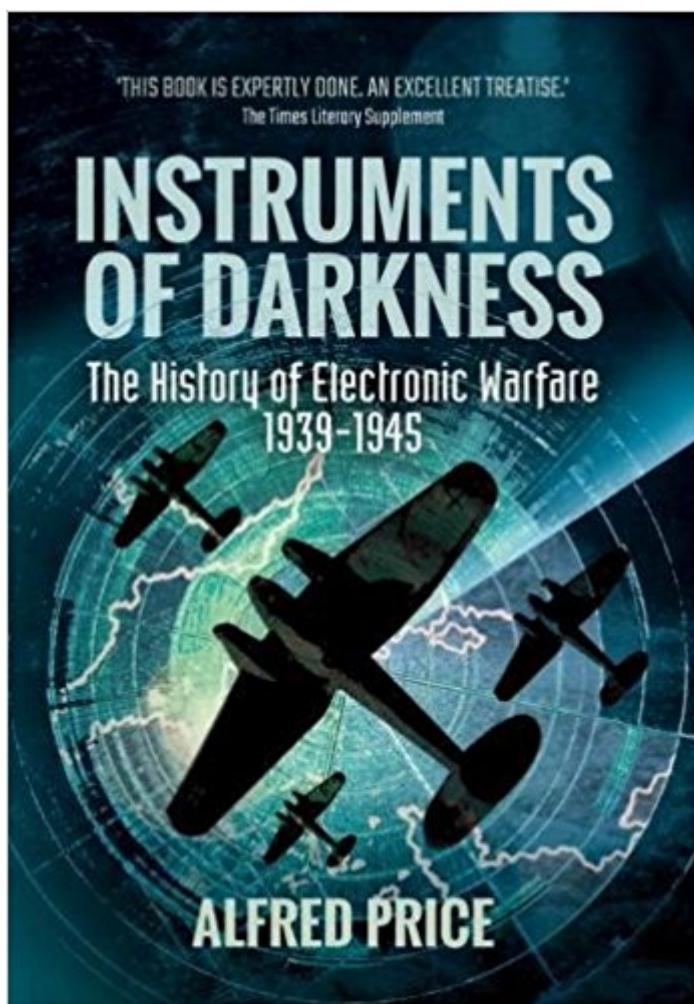


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# Instruments Of Darkness: The History Of Electronic Warfare, 1939-1945



## Synopsis

The rapid evolution of radio and radar systems for military use during World War II, and devices to counter them, led to a technological battle that neither the Axis nor the Allied powers could afford to lose. The result was a continual series of thrusts, parries, and counter-thrusts, as first one side then the other sought to wrest the initiative in the struggle to control the ether. This was a battle fought with strange-sounding weapons—Freya, Mandrel, Boozer, and Window—and characterized by the bravery, self-sacrifice, and skill of those who took part in it. During the war, however, and for many years after, electronic-warfare systems and their employment during the conflict remained closely guarded military secrets. When that veil of secrecy was finally lifted, the technicalities of the subject helped ensure that it remained beyond the reach of many lay researchers and readers. Long regarded as a standard reference work, *Instruments of Darkness* has been expanded and completely revised.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The analysis is expertly done from the operational and scientific points of view... it makes an excellent treatise' - Times Literary Supplement" --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

ALFRED PRICE served for sixteen years in the Royal Air Force where he specialized in electronic warfare and air fighting tactics. After leaving the RAF, he has published nearly fifty books on

aviation subjects.

A fascinating history of radar and its related technologies during WWII. This book concentrates primarily on British and German work, although there are a couple of chapters on US developments. There is some discussion of radar in Japan and none at all in the other belligerents like the Soviet Union and Italy. For a good discussion of US work during the same time period and after, see Robert Buideri's "The Invention That Changed the World".

Alfred Price, a career EW himself, wrote the original version of this work in 1967 when much of what he covers was still shrouded in official secrecy and myth. This book, revised twice since then, has stood the test of time and remains one of the great efforts on the subject of Electronic Warfare in the Second World War. The majority of the coverage is on the electronic war between England and Nazi Germany as they developed competing systems to aid their respective bombing campaigns and the countermeasures that arose in the form of improved aerial radars and passive reception devices. Its strengths include interviews with many of the participants in this obscure form of combat and the amount of information provided on the incredible array of devices and gadgets developed for electronic combat between 1939 and 1945. Although he does have several chapters covering US work and the Pacific War, these areas are better covered in the series he later wrote on US EW History for the Association of Old Crows. Over 60 years later the basics of EW really haven't changed, which makes this book still important reading for anyone interested in the dark arts of electronic warfare.

If you stumble across a copy of this wonderful book be certain to grab it. A very well done book about what was going on behind the scenes in WWII. book about patient investigation, deduction, and rather understated courage in unpressurized, draughty aircraft in the cold night skies over Europe.

A detailed and fascinating history of Radar (and similar technologies) from its conception until recent times. Most of the focus is on WW2 period - hardly surprising as this is the period when most of the advancement in Radar had happened, a period in which a little known and little implemented idea turned into a decisive weapon with a significant contribution to the Allied victory. The book portrays the technology and the people behind it; scientists, engineers, soldiers and politicians to form a fascinating image of this little known part of history. A must book for anybody interested in history,

technology and the military.

This is a truly great book about electronic warfare. Details many jammers/radars/Nav-aids/ESMs etc used during WWII, primarily those used by the UK and Germany. The stories are informative, with just the right amount of detail and are occasionally humorous. The Pacific theatre is also covered, though in less detail (as there was less going on there EW wise). This book has maintained its relevance, as the EW practices employed back then are still practiced today. The constant battle between ES/EA/EP is prevalent in this book; and it remains so today. I also recommend purchasing *Most Secret War* by R V Jones.

What a find. For those of you who are interested in the technical history of WWII, this book is essential reading. It's a clear and lucid description of the radar and countermeasures battle of the British Air Force over Germany. It tells the story in chronological order, but with just right amount of context to make this exciting reading (even when you know how the story ends.) Its strength is its only weakness. I only wished the author could have had written the equivalent radar/countermeasures story about the US Air Force in WWII. BTW, the second edition adds a superfluous chapter on the radar/countermeasures battle over North Vietnam. The lack of declassified information makes this a much weaker addition to a great book.

I found this book to be extremely informative and interesting. Anyone with even a modicum of a technical background interested in the air war between Britain and Germany during WW2, will enjoy reading this book. If you read Barbara Cartland romance novels, you will not enjoy this book.

Good Service from Seller - Book in VERY GOOD condition - My husband wanted this book for a very long time, I got it for a present to him! He's read it and LOVES IT! He plans to read it over and over! Not for a novice.

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