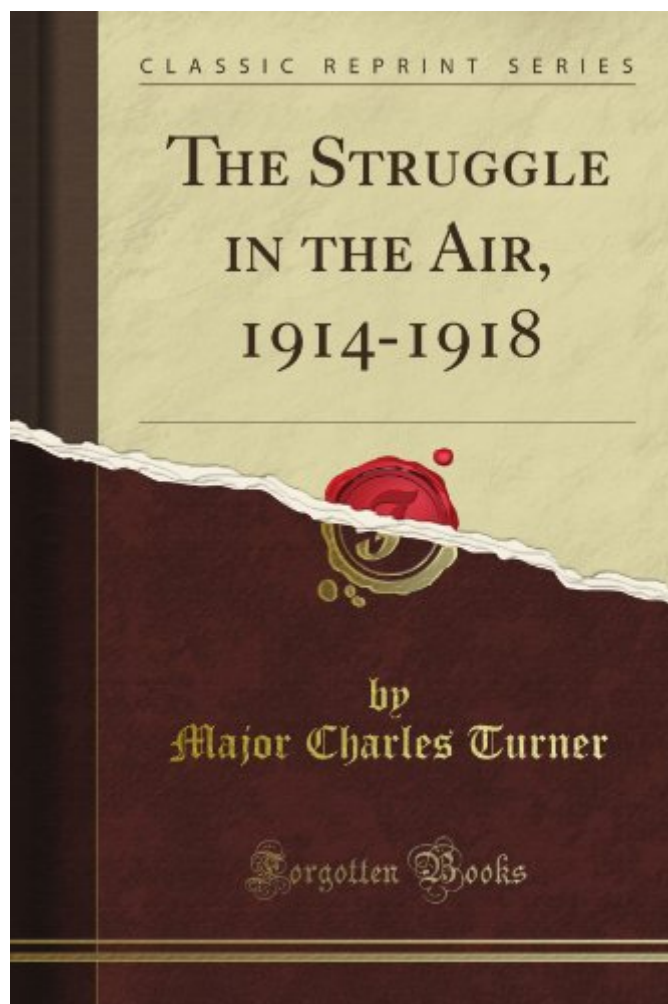


The Struggle in the Air, 1914-1918 (Classic Reprint) PDF



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This is an attempt to describe the great achievements during the war of our air services, and to present them in due relation to the rapid developments in the mechanics of flight and in the art of flying. It should, therefore, be more than a mere story of aerial adventure :it is an endeavour to present, but without technicalities, the development step by step of aircraft, of the art of flying, and of the various functions of aircraft in war. An ambitious programme ;and, conscious though I am of inability to do full justice to it, I can at any rate claim the possession of one or two advantages. I knew personally most of the pre-war aeroplane designers and flyers ;watched the birth and the growth of the Flying Services ;and served in the latter throughout the great struggle. One of the earlier aviators (N o. 70 in the British list), and previously a balloonist, and associated with the aeronautical movement in England from 1907, I offered my services to the authorities two days

before England declared war against Germany. I was granted a commission as sub-lieutenant. Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, in October, 1914, and was attached to the Royal Naval Air Service. My Service life, which ended soon after the termination of hostilities, was varied. During the first few months my official obsession was Zeppelins ;but although technically in action against the Leviathan of the Sky on two occasions, London anti-aircraft defence fought no battles during my association with it.

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