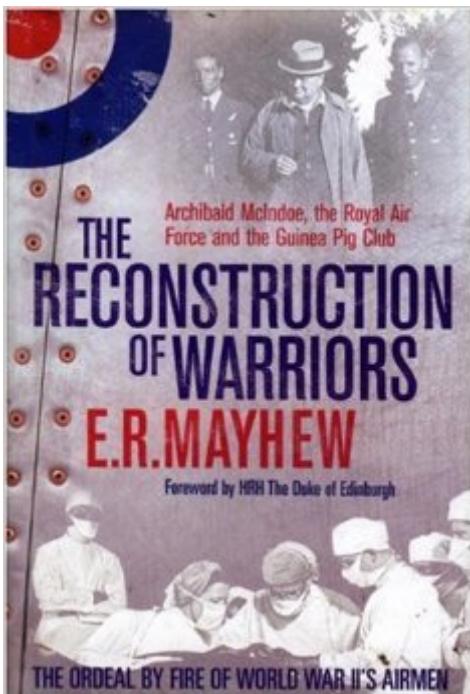


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The Reconstruction Of Warriors: Archibald McIndoe, the Royal Air Force And The Guinea Pig Club



Synopsis

The history of the Guinea Pig Club, the band of airmen who were seriously burned in airplane fires, is a truly inspiring, spine-tingling tale. Before World War II, plastic surgery was in its infancy. The most rudimentary techniques were only known to a few surgeons worldwide. The Allies were tremendously fortunate in having the maverick surgeon Archibald McIndoe - nicknamed 'the Boss' or 'the Maestro' - operating at a small hospital in East Grinstead in the south of England. McIndoe constructed a medical infrastructure from scratch. After arguing with his superiors, he set up a revolutionary new treatment regime. Uniquely concerned with the social environment, or 'holistic care', McIndoe also enlisted the help of the local civilian population. He rightly secured his group of patients - dubbed the Guinea Pig Club - an honored place in society as heroes of Britain's war. For the first time official records have been used to explain fully how and why this remarkable relationship developed between the Guinea Pig Club, the RAF and the Home Front. First-person recollections bring to life the heroism of the airmen with incredible clarity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I thought it was pretty decent. I would have liked to have it go into more depth around the medical end of it, after all, this was leading edge technology at the time and McIndoe was the pioneer. Interesting read regardless.

After the WW1 trench warfare there were many soldiers left with facial wounds. This is the story of the pioneering surgeon that took the men that nobody knew how to help and developed many of the early plastic surgery procedures that are still used today.

How dedicated surgical teams of East Grinstead Cottage Hospital and a supportive civilian community restored burned flyers of the RAF in World War 2 and made disfiguring burns a badge of honor. Well written; hard to put down!

great book

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