A Short History Of Air Power

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And the history of air conditioning is therefore an interesting story. And more than that, it’s a hugely important story, because it’s no exaggeration to say this - the invention and ongoing evolution and perfection of air conditioning technology has literally changed the world and altered human history by changing everything about how and where we live, work, and inhabit our planet. But the details about the more epic developments in this story will have to wait for a future post in this series. For now, we’ll look briefly back to the bare beginnings of air conditioning. AC: The Early Inventing Air Transportation: A compilation of historical aircraft categorized by time period. The History of Flight: An educational resource that covers the history of the Wrights. Mankind’s Fascination with Flight: An extensive document that covers the history of flight, especially the Wrights’ aerodynamic research. All three passengers drifted in the hot air balloon for about five miles powered by wood fire. December 1st, 1783, Jacques Charles and Nicolas-Louis Robert deployed their first manned hydrogen balloon in front of a crowd numbering four hundred thousand. A Short History of Aircraft Survivability (PDF): An abstract paper that describes the endurance of aircraft before it finally hits the can. Heavier-than-air Aircraft.
Like most people in the power industry, we editors at Power Engineering magazine spend a lot of time looking forward. Perhaps as interesting, though, is the history of natural gas generation itself. Long before its use in power generation, natural gas had already demonstrated its utility. Its presence was known in ancient times. Before this in 1937, Sun Oil had used a gas turbine to generate air and electricity for private use at its chemical plant in Philadelphia. In 1945, a two-shaft reheat gas turbine achieved a world record 10 MW output, followed in 1948 by a combined total output of 40 MW generated at the world’s largest gas plant in Beznau, Switzerland. Clearly, Switzerland was a busy place for emerging natural gas technologies in the 1940s.
Air power now showed the vulnerability of large warships to air launched torpedoes and bombs although the big fleets had considerable defences against air attack. Air craft also impacted on warfare in another area - that of transport and supply. Paratroopers were used on a large scale for the first time with the German airborne invasion of Crete in 1941 and the nearly disastrous Allied operation Market Garden in 1944. Unlike the First World War where air power was a useful addition to forces or a propaganda weapon, Second World War airpower helped decide the fate of whole campaign areas if not the course of the war as in the Battle of Britain. Further more it became integrated into warfare as never before, with the use of airborne troops, close air support and Naval Aviation.