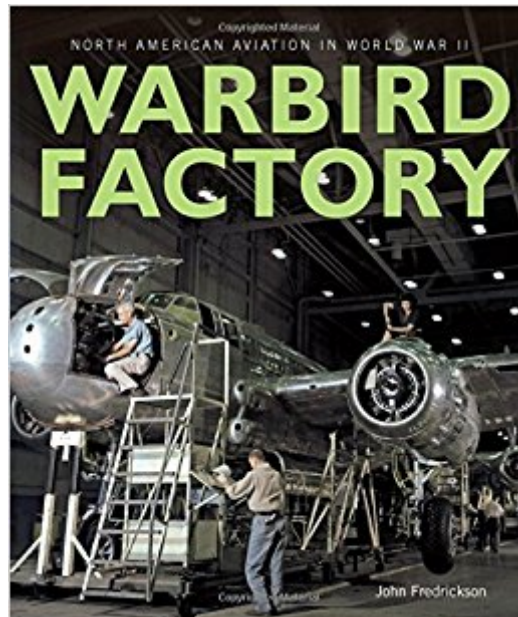




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Warbird Factory: North American Aviation In World War II



Synopsis

Explore the WWII history of the company that later became a part of Boeing and made more aircraft from 1938 to 1944 than any other company in the United States. During World War II, Los Angeles was the ultimate boom town. By the end of the war, the L.A. area had produced 17 percent of all of America's war needs. North American Aviation, Inc. (NAA), operating out of their main Inglewood, California, plant, which is south of and adjacent to the city, was a key player in that work. From 1938 to 1944, NAA built over 40,000 aircraft, more than any other company in the United States. The bulk of them were of three iconic types designed by NAA: - The P-51 Mustang, arguably the best fighter of WWII. - B-25 Mitchell medium bombers, which saw worldwide combat. - Two-seat military pilot trainers, such as the AT-6 Texan. This is a fascinating story of a remarkable time in aviation history, when American businesses helped fund the arsenal of democracy that helped defeat the Axis powers. Warbird Factory tells this story with over 200 photographs, many of which come directly from the NAA/Boeing archives, where they have resided since WWII. This is an essential book for anyone interested in warbirds, aviation, Boeing/NAA, WWII, and/or the history of Southern California!

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Customer Reviews

"An excellent pictorial history with more than 200 black-and-white and color photographs, illuminating text and captions, technical notes, and cutaway drawings. Highly recommended for World War II historians, industry analysts, aviation enthusiasts, modelers, and lay readers." - Library

Journal"Warbird Factory is a perfect exposition of how the American public and the U.S. aviation industry shook off the effects of deadening depression and sprang into action with the onset of WWII - Aviation History"An excellent pictorial history with more than 200 black-and-white and color photographs, illuminating text and captions, technical notes, and cutaway drawings. Highly recommended for World War II historians, industry analysts, aviation enthusiasts, modelers, and lay readers - Library Journal"Fredrickson's work has produced a book which can be enjoyed by aviation buffs as well as professional historians and is as welcome on a coffee table as it is in a professional library - Seattle Post-Intelligencer blog TRAVEL FOR AIRCRAFT"This book offers aviation, company, wartime and broader American history served up in an accessible and really quite beautiful package. It is good to read and stunning to look at. At first glance, this one had a chance to be 'book of the year' written all over it. I didn't rush in to a review; I kept it back for slower appreciation. This may not suit the PR departments of publishers but I know the people at Zenith Press are really going for it to produce books of this standard. They are winning. The NAA archive was a gift from heaven and they didn't pass it up. Nor should you. John Frederickson and his publisher have presented us with a masterpiece. More please - WarHistoryOnline.com"The story of NAA's great factories is laid out in this new photobook. Hundreds of images tell the story, many of them from the company's archives. The accompanying text completes the tale, covering the events, personalities, and actions which carried NAA forward into the annals of history - WWII History"Fredrickson's work has produced a book which can be enjoyed by aviation buffs as well as professional historians and is as welcome on a coffee table as it is in a professional library." - Seattle Post-Intelligencer blog TRAVEL FOR AIRCRAFT

After 36 years of working at Boeing, a modern airplane company, it was an honor to be granted unrestricted access to the photographs and documents of a legendary, but now sadly defunct, air frame purveyor. My research was done by reviewing thousands of pages of source documents including letters, financial ledgers, plant weekly newspapers, and the logs of daily events. The discovery of the NA-73 (P-51 prototype) civil registration form dated October 1940 was especially significant. The image of the document is found in Appendix G. I was also able to track down and interact with some of the descendants (the nephew of the copilot killed in the crash of NA-98X on 4/24/44) and the grandson of one of the major protagonists. They graciously shared family history with me. It was only after review of the source documents that previous books on the topic were reviewed and they added some additional insights. It is expected that Warbird Factory will help future historians better understand the miracle that was North American Aviation

during World War II.

Top shelf book on North American aircraft production during WWII. I highly recommend this book to anyone who have wondered how these aircraft were put together on a production line. Author John Fredrickson does a masterful job in weaving the lives of Dutch Kindelberger and Lee Atwood of NAA to the development and manufacturing of the iconic P-51 Mustang and the B-25 Mitchell. Plus stellar photographs and illustrations of that period. A few other aircraft are covered in this hardcover book, but it mostly deals in making of Mustang and Mitchell aircraft. I give this aviation history book a big thumbs up!

Wonderful book, lavishly illustrated and with more detail than you might expect. However, that makes the photo caption on page 188 even more bizarre. It shows Eisenhower standing before an aircraft. The caption reads "Eisenhower chats with an officer in front of a North American combat plane - likely an A-36 Apache, which was a variant of the P-51 Mustang." The plane is very obviously a Supermarine Spitfire. Beyond that little hiccup, this is a superb book, including stories I had never read before, like the custom B-25 built for Eisenhower.

Interesting, well done book. My only quibble is that I would have like more photos of the production line. Both of my parents worked for North American Aviation at times so I have a sort of family interest. I was inside of a part of one of the buildings along Imperial Highway (used for B25s and later P51s) when Carrol Shelby was making the first Mustang GTs.

This is mostly a history of NAA with emphasis on the WWII period. Nicely printed on good quality paper. The photos are reproduced very well. I have not seen most of them before. Apparently the NAA photo archives survived the company's various changes of ownership and now safely reside with Boeing's archives.

North American Aviation built more planes than anyone else during World War II, but it wasn't easy as this book points out. Where would be have been if "Dutch" Kindelberger never existed!

This is a gift for my dad. He is a huge World War II buff. He really enjoyed this book. He said it was different from most of the other ones he has read especially since it focused on the planes instead of the ground forces.

I am from Kansas City. Taught me facts I knew nothing about! Thanks! We

These was a gift! The recipient loved the book! Very interesting!

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