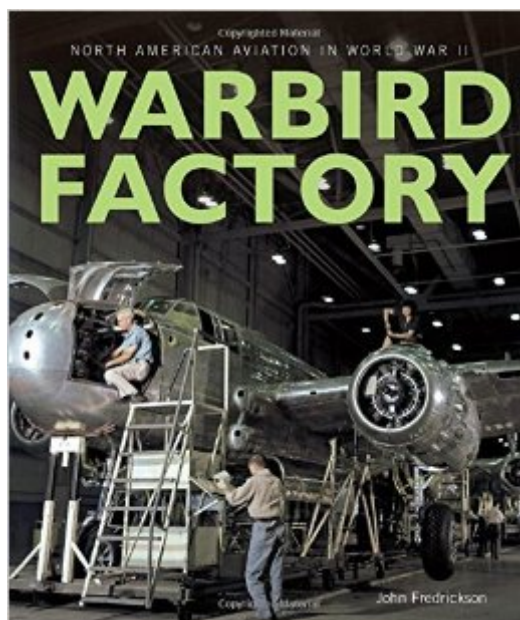


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Warbird Factory: North American Aviation In World War II



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!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

John Frederickson has written an extraordinary new book on one of the aircraft manufacturers that helped fill the skies across the Pacific, European, and China-Burma-India theaters. Warbird Factory: North American Aviation in World War II is supplemented by a varied collection of both

black-and-white and color photographs of not only North American Aviation's aircraft and factories but the people who built them. It is these photographs which supplement the author's exceptional prose that showcase this facet of our home front history during wartime. The home front truly "comes alive" for the reader. Frederickson's 36-year career with Boeing as a manager enabled his access to the photograph collection, company records, and more prodigious history of the North American Aviation (NAA) company. Warbird Factory is far more than just another book of airplane pictures, technical specifications, and diagrams however. What makes this new work unique and engrossing is the author's research and writing of the company's history which occurred before, during and after the war. He effectively retraces NAA's origins to the automobile industry and General Motors Corporation (GM). As such, we now have previously unpublished history which details the "business side" of the industry overall and rise of NAA before the war. I personally find the synergies which took place between the automobile industry and the fledgling airline industry of the 1920's and 1930's fascinating. I think you will too. The aircraft central to NAA in Warbird Factory are the B-25 Mitchell bomber and P-51 Mustang escort fighter. (NAA also designed and developed trainers - smaller aircraft utilized for training new pilots.

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