

The Martin P5M Marlin

"the end of an era in naval seaplane aviation"

by Bruce D. Barth

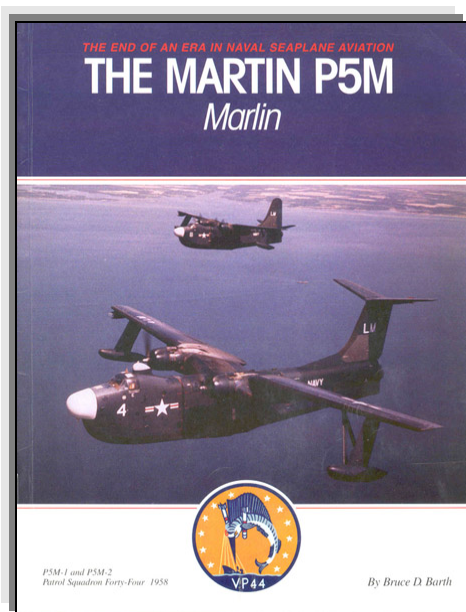


☞ The Complete History of the Last U.S. Navy Flying Boat ☛

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First published in 1994 as a Limited Edition of 2,000 copies, *The Martin P5M Marlin* takes a close look at this last of its kind naval flying boat. The P5M *Marlin* was the last in a long line of military seaplanes produced by the Glenn L. Martin Aircraft Company between 1909 and 1960. Designed in 1946 to replace the venerable Martin PBM *Mariner*, the P5M-1 was the first U.S. Navy aircraft built specifically for ASW use. Entering service in 1952, the *Marlin* came too late to see action in the Korean War, but nonetheless served with a growing number of post-war patrol squadrons throughout the U.S., the Pacific, and the Caribbean. Incorporating the latest concepts in ASW electronics and seaplane technology, the P5M played a pioneering role in developing new anti-submarine warfare tactics. The P5M-2 was introduced in 1954, but the days of the naval seaplane were clearly numbered. Although many new designs were considered throughout the 1950s, the P5M-2 was the last production flying boat used by the U.S. Navy. At the onset of the Vietnam conflict, the Navy's four remaining seaplane squadrons VP-40, 47, 48 and 50 were called into action and played a significant role as part of *Operation Market Time*, from 1964 to 1967. The *Marlins* were officially retired in 1967, ending 57 years of Naval Seaplane Aviation. *Only one example survives today!*



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MARTIN SEAPLANES HISTORICAL RESEARCH



Bruce D. Barth, Author/Historian
7049 Auckland Drive, Austin, Texas 78749-4162

www.vpmma.org
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