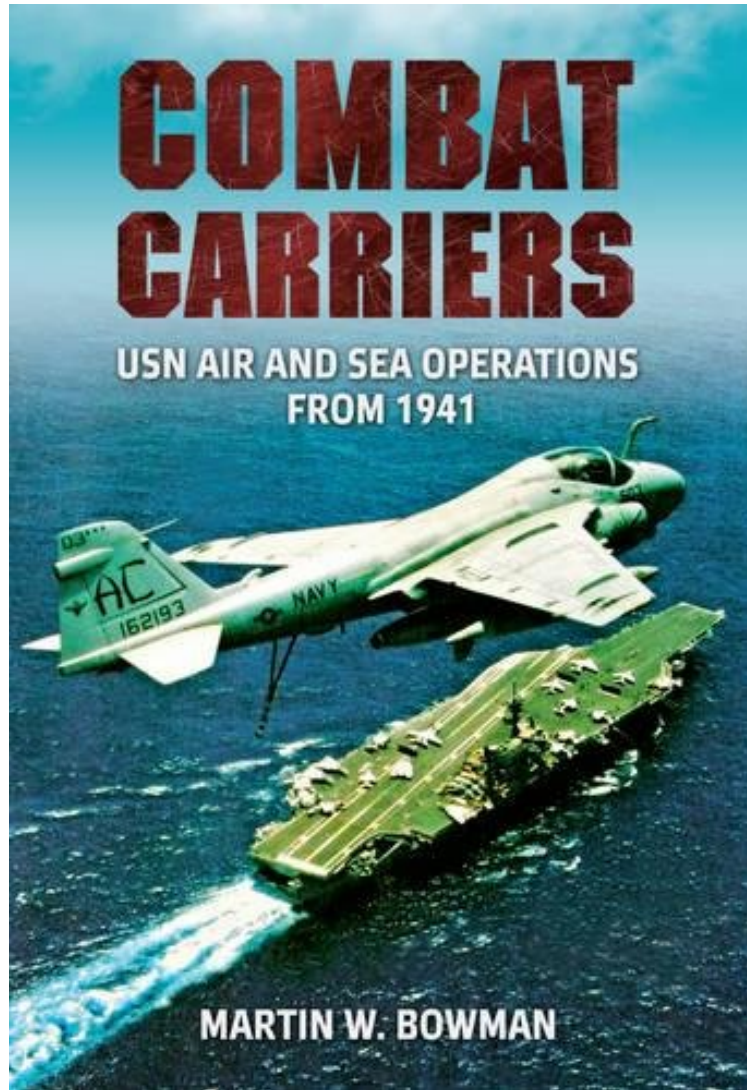


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## Combat Carriers: USN Air and Sea Operations from 1941

*Martin W. Bowman*

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**Martin W. Bowman : Combat Carriers: USN Air and Sea Operations from 1941** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Combat Carriers: USN Air and Sea Operations from 1941:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Mish-Mash Chronicle of USN Carriers in Action! By Mike O'Connor During the past 60 years, U. S. Navy aircraft carriers have compiled a battle history second to none. American flattops played decisive roles in World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf Wars. That record is the subject of British author Martin Bowman's uneven COMBAT CARRIERS, published by Amberley Publishing in

2010. Bowman revisits the carriers' combat history in chapters entitled 'Pearl Harbor and the US Pacific Fleet,' 'The Battle of Midway,' 'Marianas Turkey Shoot,' 'Task Force 77: Korea,' 'Air War Vietnam 1964-73,' etc. Six photo inserts are included in the book. I have several problems with COMBAT CARRIERS. Frankly, it's a hodge-podge of material. Some was written by Bowman but he also included big chunks of text taken from other sources. Much of the Korean War material, for example, comes from Owen Dykema's LETTERS FROM THE BIRD BARGE. Articles from THE HOOK also figure in those chapters. Then too the Vietnam War chapter is basically a rehash of the USN a/c loss accounts found in Chris Hobson's magnificent VIETNAM AIR LOSSES reprinted word for word. Bowman credits those sources but using such big globs of material gives COMBAT CARRIERS an air of being not so much written as assembled. And, finally, since the book is supposed to deal with USN AIR AND SEA OPERATIONS FROM 1941, why is there a chapter on the Malta convoys? USN involvement in those operations was almost non-existent yet eight pages are given over to it. So, while I enjoyed parts of COMBAT CARRIERS, the narrative didn't jell for me. There aren't a lot of good books out there on USN carrier ops - Bob Lawson's HISTORY OF US NAVAL AIR POWER comes to mind - so give COMBAT CARRIERS a look-see. You may love it. I didn't. Recommended with reservations.

From World War Two to the present day, the aircraft carrier has been a potent display of the might of the US Navy. The nuclear-powered aircraft carriers of today are some of the largest ships afloat, with 3,200 crew as well as 2,480 in the air wing and upwards of eighty-five aircraft aboard. The modern carriers can trace their lineage back to before World War Two. From 1941 to 1945 there were almost twenty naval battles involving the US Navy and the Imperial Japanese Navy and five of them would be fought between aircraft carriers. Critically, four of these battles would occur within a six-month period during 1942 and their outcome would affect the whole course of the war. Martin Bowman tells the story of the United States Navy's carrier war through the voices of the men who fought it, while continuing on through Korea, Vietnam and the Gulf Wars, to the present day. Profusely illustrated with images, many previously unpublished, this book graphically tells the story of US Navy aircraft carriers at war and the men who sailed on and flew from these veritable floating cities.

About the Author Martin W. Bowman is one of Britain's leading aviation authors, with over 100 published books on the Second World War and post-war aviation history, and several on the landscape of East Anglia. He has also established an international reputation for his superb imagery and aerial photography. He has a passion for flying in military aircraft. He lives in Norwich, Norfolk.