The B-24 Liberator Bomber: A Bibliography

This was prepared by an amateur WWII historian to catalog written and film materials on the B-24. Brief comments follow each reference.

Prepared by Gordon T. Ridley, Adjunct Professor Emeritus, University of Wisconsin-Madison

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**Background**

- More than 18,000 built in WWII, most of any bomber
- Four companies made them (San Diego, Tulsa, Ft. Worth, Willow Run)
- Designed by Air Force and Conair aircraft company, San Diego
- Predominant use was strategic bombing of Germany and Japan
- Also used for anti submarine warfare, rescue, supply transport, strafing
- Similar to B-17 Flying Fortress; both surpassed by B-29 Super Fortress

**Pamphlets**


Lots and lots of photos of England based planes

Johnsen, Frederick, *Consolidate B-24 Liberator: a pictorial history*, pamphlet, 1977

History of development of plane, much on its anatomy, features, changes during production, diagrams of how to fix landing gear manually, how to jettison, etc.

**B 24 Liberator 2006 Historical Calendar**

12 photos of planes in various parts of world, dates relevant to B-24. Quick read, very quick

Reviews each model variation including Navy use as ocean patrol plane. Lots of photos

**Books**


Fine account of a massive effort of the Ford Motor Company to build the plane, from a plot of land to 8,600 planes by war’s end.

Scarcce, Phil, *Finish Forty and Home*, Untold WWII story of B-24s in the Pacific, University of North Texas, 2011

Son recreated this father’s B-24 experience in Pacific, Iwo Jima and other islands.

Freeman, Roger A., *B-24 Liberator at War*, Ian Allan LTD, 1983, 125 pages

History of roles in both theaters, strengths/weaknesses, photos, first hand accounts of combat. Good effort


Story of the 49th bomber wing based in Italy, follows the history of each plane, explaining the events of each plane, when it left US and when it returned if it did. Lots of photos

Watts, Perry, *The 467th Bombardment Group (H) in Combat with the B-24 Liberator over Europe*, Schiffer, 2005, 300 pages

Full story of this group based at Rackheath, England, organized chronologically, updates each month of its activity. Rosters of crew, missions, a few photos

The Liberator Legend, Turner Publications, 1990, 150 pages (no author cited)

First hand accounts, crew photos, more photos.
Books (cont’d)


Author flew B-24’s, offers a “how-to” manual about each aspect of plane’s operation, all of them


Photo album

*Liberator*, produced by General Dynamics Convair to commemorate 50th anniversary of first flight of B-24, 1989, 60 pages

Glossy color photos of the plane, many of restored aircraft, outlines major features of design and mechanics


Stories and pictures

Vincent, CR, *Consolidated Liberator and Boeing Fortress, Canada’s Wings*, 1975, 200 pages

Account of Canadian Air Force use of B-24

Ambrose, Stephen E., *The Wild Blue, the Men and Boys who flew the B-24’s over Germany*, Simon and Schuster, 2001

Describes the daily life of crews in Italy, what happened on bombing missions, features George McGovern. Vintage Ambrose, well done
**Government Study**

_The United States Strategic Bombing Survey_

10 volumes : illustrations ; 24 cm
ISBNS  9780824020262, 082402026X  OCLC  ocm01975918

US government sent study teams to Europe and Japan within one year of the war's end to assess damage and the overall effectiveness of aerial bombardment; this is a compilation of the resulting reports. It isn't specific to the B-24.

**Video**

_YouTube_: search “B-24”, lot of content

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_The Story of Willow Run_, Ford Motor Company, 1943, 1945

33 Minute DVD of manufacturing the plane at the largest such facility; fascinating, adds much to written accounts

_Story of Willow Run Availability:_
-  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZukteYbGQ
-  order from Yankee Air Museum (fine museum on Willow Run property):
  -  http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org/our-history/