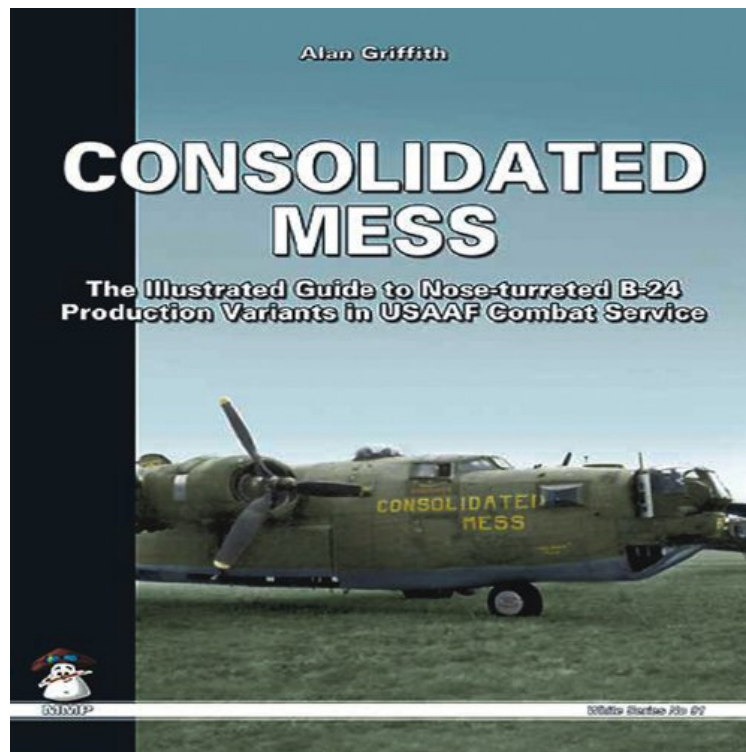


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Consolidated Mess: The Illustrated Guide to Nose-turreted B-24 Production Variants in USAAF Combat Service (White Series)

Alan Griffith

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Alan Griffith : Consolidated Mess: The Illustrated Guide to Nose-turreted B-24 Production Variants in USAAF Combat Service (White Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Consolidated Mess: The Illustrated Guide to Nose-turreted B-24 Production Variants in USAAF Combat Service (White Series):

6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Promises to be an outstanding and informative series of books By Jim Davis This book is in MMP's White Series, being number 9115. The book, like others in the series, is the full A4 size (8-1/4" x 11-3/4"). The book has 192 pages and is a square bound card cover. Most of the book is black and white. Color is restricted to three photos and four profiles in the camouflage appendix. The front and rear covers both feature (sigh) colorized photos. Is this really necessary for a plane as ubiquitous as the B-24? Were there no suitable color photographs to be had? The book proper however is a "rivet counter's" dream. The author goes through in painstaking detail the external appearance differences of the various nose turreted B-24 variants in USAAF service. All details discussed are well illustrated either photographically, with contemporary technical manual illustrations, and/or the author's own high quality profiles. The variants covered begin with the depot modified B-24Ds and continue through the G, H, J, L, M, and N. The author is not content just to point out changes but also delves into the tactical, technical,

industrial, and/or political reasons for the various changes. The author makes it clear that there are numerous unanswered questions remaining and is quite clear where fact ends and speculation begins. Throughout the book a "Volume II" covering the greenhouse variants is referred to. This is very welcome news and I look forward to reading it. Also mentioned are possible volumes on US Navy and British versions. Bring them on. It should be mentioned that one of the profiles was accidentally omitted from the book but is available on the MMP website and can be printed out and slipped into the book. Complaints are few and are more in the line of what I would have preferred to have than actual deficiencies. There are no plan views in the book (except for an interesting twin B-24 concept) and no color profiles for modelling subjects. These are unusual editorial choices for MMP and highlights how different this book is from their usual fare. It can be deduced from the author's writing style that he is an American which is also a first for MMP which usually feature British or Polish authors. It would be interesting to know if MMP was the author's first choice for publisher. It seems more a Specialty Press or Midland kind of book. All in all, the book is outstanding, and can be highly recommended to anyone with the slightest interest in the details of this aircraft. It is literally packed with information. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A technical history and analysis that is long overdue.

By Arthur R. Silen
For those interested in the design and production history of the Consolidated B-24 Liberator, Alan Griffith's new book, *Consolidated Mess; The Illustrated Guide to Nose-Turreted B-24 Production Variants in US AAF Combat Service*, is an indispensable reference. Modelers will love it. The sheer breadth of information and detail, including photographs, extracts from B-24 maintenance and erection manuals, and two-color scale drawings (that's right; details of component changes are shown in red!) make this book a must-have for modelers who want to get it right. Not only can modelers re-create model-specific aircraft that were produced by individual manufacturing plants operating within the B-24 production pool (Consolidated, San Diego and Fort Worth; Ford, Willow Run; Douglas, Tulsa; and North American, Dallas), but also changes made at B-24 Modification Centers in Hawaii, Oklahoma City (OK), Dayton (OH), Middletown (PA), and Townsend, Australia. The author points out that the principal changes that these modification centers made were to provide better protection in the nose, belly, waist guns, and tail, and resulting in distinctive configurations in design shape and glazing. Additionally, there were distinctive differences between Consolidated-manufactured B-24s, and those manufactured by Ford and North American. There were differences in turret design, both nose and tail, that differed from manufacturer to manufacturer, and in theater of operation. There were significant differences in cockpit glazing and navigation observation windows. All known variants are discussed in great detail. Then, and with modelers in mind there is extended discussion about paintwork and camouflage patterns, including a discussion about why olive drab paint proved to be so unstable and faded so rapidly. Lastly, there is a section on the B-24's final design configuration, the B-24N, with its single vertical tail and revised nose glazing, and oddities, including Allen O. Kelly's patent application, dated June 13, 1944, for a twin fuselage, six-engined B-24, zwilling that is bound to tempt the most jaded modeler. Somebody will do this one, I guarantee. The author indicates that a second volume is currently in preparation to pick up where he left off. I can't wait.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Everything you ever wanted to know about The B-24....

Part I
By Convair990
I bought this book because i had fairly limited references on the Liberator, and a lot of what has been published up to this time had been incomplete, or filled with factual errors. This is an entirely fresh, original effort by Alan Griffith, the end result of much time poring over photos and documents from the National Archives. Many interesting facts that i never knew about the B-24 were revealed, such as tail wheel modifications to assist the aft CG problem, the various nose and tail turrets developed, tested, and deployed on the Liberator, and some very good details about the last B-24s that rolled off the Ford assembly line which had the re designed canopy and longer engine nacelles. Some attention is paid to the Single Tailed Liberators which were cancelled due to War's end as well. More B-24s were produced than any other US aircraft during WWII, and with 3 Different companies producing the aircraft (Consolidated, North American, Ford) the planes development took many twists and turns and was full of detail nuances as different manufacturers chose different ways to mass produce and modify the aircraft to meet the needs learned from bloody combat experience. The book is dedicated to the B-24, but i understand subsequent volumes will cover the C-87 and C-109 transport/ tanker variants. A title on the Navy PB4Y-1 may be in the works; i can't remember. Those seeking an authoritative reference on the later Navy PB4Y-2 Privateer are advised to check out Nicholas Veronico's book on the Privateer in the Steve Ginter Naval Fighters series. Highly recommended to people who like the B-24. Excellent value for money as a modelling reference tool.

The B-24 Liberator was built in greater numbers than any other US WW2 aircraft, and served in every theater of WW2, as heavy bomber, anti-submarine aircraft, reconnaissance and transport. Produced in several factories, there were many variations, both minor and major, and existing literature is confusing and inaccurate. This book describes the development of nose-turreted versions of the B-24 as used by the USAAF, from field modification of early variants through to the many production versions built by Consolidated, Ford, and others, up to the definitive single-tailed B-24N. All aspects of the airframe are covered, from nose to tail, and the bewildering variety of turrets, guns, windows and other areas are described and illustrated. Much of this information has never been published before, and much that has been published is incomplete or inaccurate. Profusely illustrated with photos and detailed scale

drawings, this book provides aviation enthusiasts and modelers the first complete guide to this major warplane. Future volumes will cover early versions without nose turrets, transport and anti-submarine versions, and non-USAAF variants.

very special and packed with all that juicy detail that modelers crave. really comprehensive Unquestionably essential! (Air Modeler) probably one of the best, and most descriptive, titles for a modeling/aircraft reference book I have seen an absolutely dizzying combination of nose turrets, tail turrets, waist guns, belly turrets and guns, and other modifications/design changes made to the B-24. The book goes into great detail of each step in the process, and the author makes every attempt to explain the differences clearly for each new piece of this puzzle. Crystal-clear photos many previously unpublished, as well as a huge number of line drawings (with differences highlighted in red) accompany a very clear descriptions amount of research this author has conducted is admirable, and the results show. (IPMS) About the Author Griffith is Professor of Building at the School of Construction, Sheffield Hallam University. Griffith is Professor of Building at the School of Construction, Sheffield Hallam University.