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Published in 1994 as a Limited Edition of 2,000 copies, The Martin P5M Marlin is the first to offer a comprehensive overview of this historic 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 patrol 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 retired in 1967, officially ending 57 years of Naval Seaplane Aviation. Only one example survives today.

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