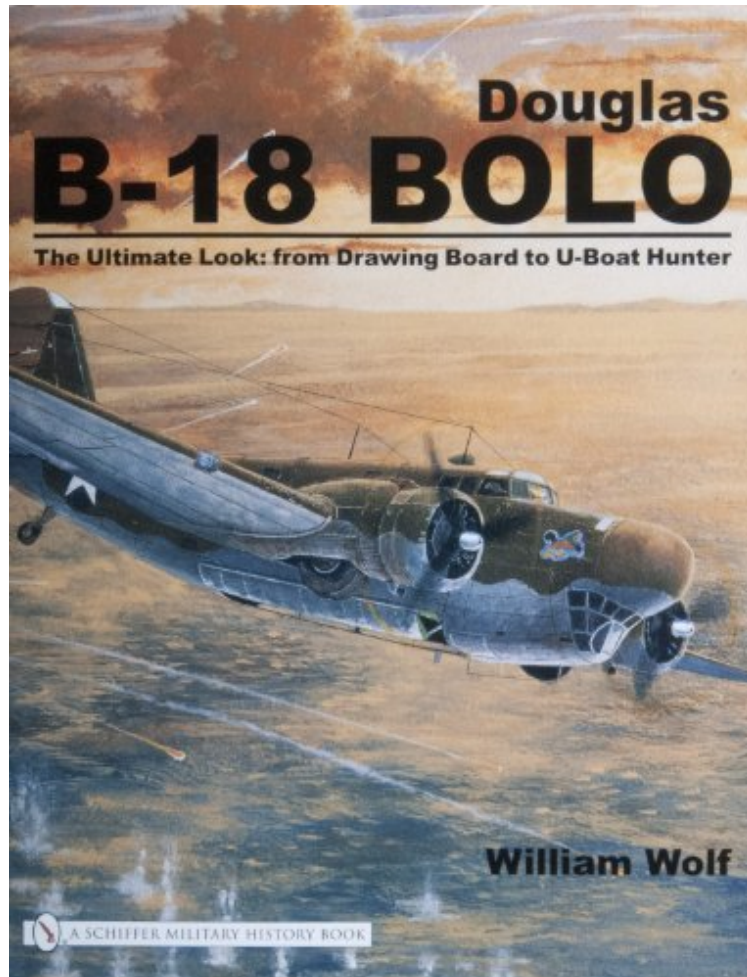


Douglas B-18 Bolo: The Ultimate Look: From Drawing Board to U-Boat Hunter

Dr William Wolf (Mi
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Dr William Wolf (Mi : Douglas B-18 Bolo: The Ultimate Look: From Drawing Board to U-Boat Hunter before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Douglas B-18 Bolo: The Ultimate Look: From Drawing Board to U-Boat Hunter:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A little drawn out.....By Karl PopleFirst, I would like to say a book on the B-18 Bolo has been LONG overdue in the aviation community. It was a lesser known and lesser publicized stablemate to the Boeing B-17. The presentation of the book, binding, paper, illustrations, and layout are superb, probably one of the best productions by Schiffer Publications I've ever seen. I have never seen so many photos of B-18s, and their interiors, in any one place. I would fault some of the text however. Mr. Wolf seems to desire to present more of the "where they were stationed" descriptions than "how they were used" or operational stories in most of the

chapters. I found myself trying to keep track of unit transfers more than enjoying operational usage of the aircraft. Chapter 9, Anti-Submarine Warfare; The B-18 Finds It's Niche, is horribly long at 55 pages (compared to a more readable 10 to 20 pages for the other chapters), and seems to be more focused on the history of the Battle of the Atlantic than on the B-18's role in it. Not only did Mr. Wolf give you this history as if none of us had ever read any of it before, but repeats himself in the chapter about 3 times. It took me several days to work my way thru this chapter alone. I found Chapter 11 on the B-23 Dragon a pretty pointless chapter in the book. The B-23 shared the wings, engines and landing gear of the Bolo, but otherwise was a new aircraft, and I felt it didn't belong in this book. Probably the best reading in the book was Chapter 10, Canadian and Foreign B-18s, which focused on Allied usage in the North Atlantic of the aircraft, was 15 pages long, and had more operational stories including how the planes were "smuggled" into Canada! The cover price of this book is \$60, and I had held off on buying it until I found it on for a more reasonable \$42, and I consider it worth it as I love the B-18. However, it makes me wonder whether I will purchase Mr. Wolf's book on another little known bomber, the B-32 Dominator, for the reasons stated above and the higher cost of that book also.

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. By Far the Best Reference on this Forgotten Bomber
By Customer
Since WW2 the little-known B-18 has been in much-deserved obscurity. Developed from an airliner, it was reliable but did not have the performance or development potential to play a significant role in the fighting. This book details every aspect of the airplane, its development, and operational history, including its most important wartime use as anti-submarine plane. If you are interested in this obscure aircraft, this is the book to get. Good quality, lots of photos, would have been improved by a section of color profiles and a table of contents with more page numbers to help the reader navigate the book.

11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Almost perfect
By Eng Luis A. Tavares
A very detailed look on an almost forgotten piece of aviation history, the B-18 Bolo. Almost perfect, if not for the generally low quality of the photos and respective reproductions (except the colour ones that are good). The text is very informative and well laid out providing a very clear story of the B-18, including the very interesting subject of the early anti-submarine operations. Recommended

William Wolf brings his meticulous research to describe the little known Douglas B-18 Bolo which was America's most numerous front line bomber at the time of Pearl Harbor. Over the years the story of the airliner turned bomber has languished in obscurity and the few articles on the subject in popular aviation magazines have emphasized its faults and maligned it as a budget bomber that had few virtues. Wolf's comprehensive book is the first ever on the subject and gives the reader the definitive description and appraisal of this neglected bomber's development, testing, manufacture, the aircraft per se, and combat experience.

About the Author
Dr. William Wolf is a retired dentist whose passion is WWII air combat. He has over 22,000 books and three miles of microfilm on WWII in his library, and is the author of sixteen books and numerous articles on WWII aviation history.