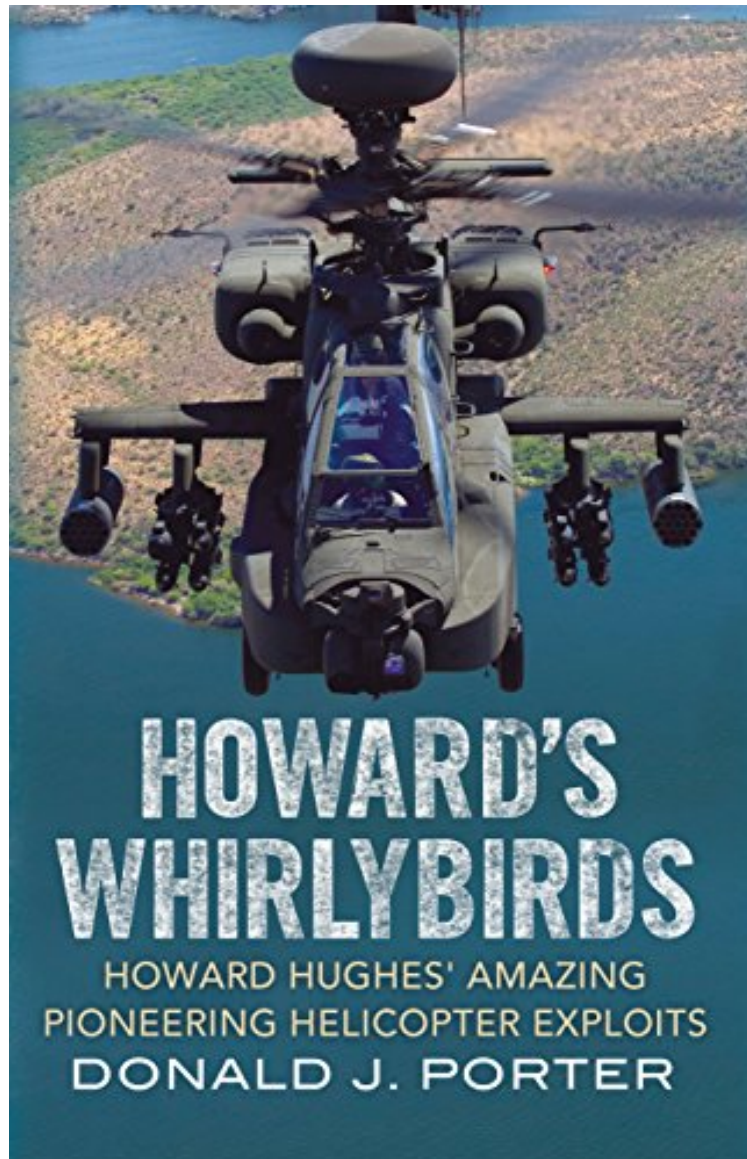


(Download) Howard's Whirlybirds: Howard Hughes's Amazing Pioneering Helicopter Exploits

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Donald J. Porter

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Donald J. Porter : Howard's Whirlybirds: Howard Hughes's Amazing Pioneering Helicopter Exploits before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Howard's Whirlybirds: Howard Hughes's Amazing Pioneering Helicopter Exploits:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. An insightful book about Hughes and the helicopter industryBy

BarbaraSBI knew that many books and even movies have been written about Howard Hughes concerning his moviemaking, business and flying adventures but I didn't know until I read this book that he also started one of the largest helicopter manufacturing companies in the world. The book begins with a very personal "Author's Note" that is not only interesting but lays the foundation for the rest of the book. This author's story rings with authority based on his knowledge gained as a former employee and his candid observations of the company's inner workings. Hughes and a group of dedicated employees who built airplanes like the huge Spruce Goose seaplane during World War II shifted their focus at the war's end to develop the world's largest helicopter and later to produce many smaller ones. The author makes it clear that the test pilots, engineers and mechanics were really the heart and soul of the company, filling the book with numerous anecdotes, sometimes humorous, to provide an up-close sense of what was going on in the company from the 1930's to the late 1980's. I found it very informative reading about the management and financial obstacles that the company had to overcome during those years. The sixteen pages of photographs accompanying the text aided me to visualize the various helicopters and the area of the Hughes plant in Culver City. The historical accuracy presented, evidenced by the many pages of source notes provided at the end, also really impressed me. You don't need to be a history or an aviation buff to enjoy this book. The story unfolds a fascinating slice of aviation history during the last century that has not been told before. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. I was an employee of Hughes Helicopters during the Apache ...By William E. Grahame I was an employee of Hughes Helicopters during the Apache development period and fondly recalled many of the stories Donald Porter so aptly described. This is a book that any Hughes employee at that time would appreciate as well as anyone interested in helicopter development programs. Howard Hughes was a one of a kind and his company's culture reflected that. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Great book for the aviation history buff. By loh pilot Great book written by one of Hughes engineers hired to be a field tech rep supporting the OH-6A deployment to Vietnam. The book covers history of the man Howard Hughes and his aviation manufacturing from the 1930's to the 1970's. Especially focusing in the development of several rotary wing aircraft such as the Hughes 269/300/TH-55A and the OH-6A/500 helicopters. The development of the AH-64 Apache and the competition of the Army and the Air Force, and the dealings with the OH-6A and the start of Apache programs at the government level. Lots of facts and personal type of stories woven into this book. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book.

Howard Hughes, movie mogul, aviation pioneer and political hound dog, has always fascinated the public, yet his legacy involving the aviation industry is often under appreciated. Hughes Helicopters was one of America's pioneering aviation companies, but few have heard of it. It mass produced the first turbine-powered light observation helicopter, popularized the light helicopter trainer, tested a gigantic 'tip-jet' powered flying crane, and developed the world's most advanced attack helicopter, the iconic Apache. It also came under extremely close scrutiny by the US Congress. From the Second World War to the mid- 1980s, Howard's Whirlybirds tells how many of the world's most innovative helicopters were developed - the setbacks, the breakthroughs, the brilliance of the company's engineers and the test-flying bravado of fearless pilots - under the leadership of one of the most fascinating characters of the twentieth century. It aims to put Hughes Helicopters in its rightful place, at the forefront of America's aeronautical history.

Howard's Whirlybirds: Howard Hughes' Amazing Pioneering Helicopter Exploits tells the little-known story of how he started and grew that enterprise. His company, sometimes referred to as a "hobby shop," mass-produced Army light observation helicopters, popularized helicopter trainers, tested a gigantic flying crane, and developed the most recognizable attack helicopter in the world today: the AH-64 Apache. It's about setbacks, technical breakthroughs, engineering brilliance, struggles with Congress and the test flying bravado of fearless pilots - General Aviation News, July 31, 2013 The Apache deal revived Hughes Helicopters. Howard Hughes, the eccentric millionaire entrepreneur who owned the company, had all but decided to shutter the business. Since 1940 the company had been so unprofitable it was nicknamed the "hobby shop." The deal [building the AH-64 Apache] also let Hughes achieve his lifetime dream - albeit posthumously, Porter said. - Monterey County Herald, September 2, 2013 Whether you are a helicopter professional, a "rotor-head" enthusiast or just a lover of aviation history, Donald J. Porter's new book, Howard's Whirlybirds: Howard Hughes' Amazing Pioneering Helicopter Exploits, published by Fonthill Media, is a remarkably insightful look back on a man, a company and the incredible flying machines that they developed and produced. Porter goes to great lengths to provide some of the incredibly fascinating and little-known back stories of individuals, innovation, success and failure. - Vertical Magazine, August 2013...The result is an often new and fascinating window onto Hughes Helicopters and to a certain extent, competitors and rivals, too. The book also adds to the known history of such helicopters as the giant XH-17, which Hughes took over from Kellett as his first helicopter project in the late 1940s and the launch of the Model 269/TH-55, ending of course, with the Apache story. A fascinating read. - Helicopter International, August 2013 Every so often, a book emerges to cover a chapter in vertical flight history that has previously gone virtually untouched; the latest offering from veteran author and aviation historian, Donald J. Porter, is just such a book. The author's efforts in documenting one of the most important - yet largely unheralded - aerospace companies in America are to be applauded. Thoroughly researched and well written,

Howard's Whirlybirds will make a welcome addition to the bookshelves of helicopter enthusiasts and aviation historians alike. - Vertiflite magazine, November/December 2013

From the Author
Devoting half of my career to working in the technical side of aviation with the other half as a professional writer, I am passionate when it comes to writing about the aviation industry and its personalities. A decade at the helicopter company owned by Howard Hughes afforded me insights about the man and the company's unique aircraft. My current project is a biography of aviation icon Allen E. Paulson, the man who built Gulfstream Aerospace into a Fortune 500 company, set speed records, circulated with presidents and celebrities, and became a horseracing legend.