

The Aero Historian



Volume 54 Number 2

Website: <http://www.aerohistorians.org>

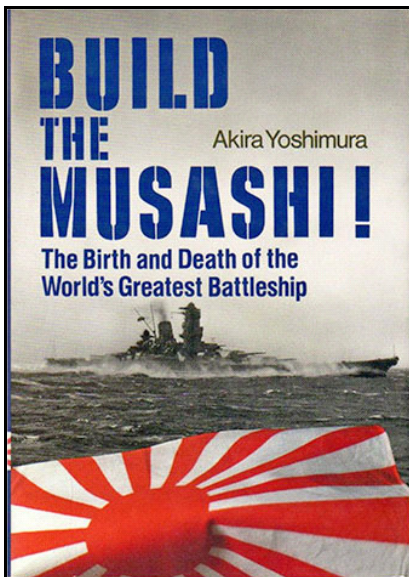
February 2019

Book Review

Build the Musashi

review by Rick Koehnen

There are many books on the IJN Yamato and the Musashi, heavy on photos and drawings. This book is unique and was a easy and joyful read. The chapters are usually only four to six pages long and they keep feeding one another where you don't want to put it down.



Authored by Akira Yoshimura, one of Japans leading military and naval authors, he narrates the difficulties and solutions of building the Musashi. The Yamato was built by the IJN in its Kure naval yard while the Musashi was contracted out to the civilian Nagasaki shipyard.

Extremely hampered by the navy's need for security, only three engineers and company

officials were in the know. Everyone else was given a task, sworn to secrecy and urged on by telling them the country could fall if they failed. When blueprints were finally delivered from Kure they were kept in a locked safe room manned by eight engineers and two blue-printers. Every print was accounted for several times a day and when one turned up missing the ten employees were arrested and tortured for more than two months until the youngest admitted to burning the blueprint with the trash.

Nagasaki shipyard is surrounded by the city and is located in a bowl. The security was unbelievable with hugh curtains of hemp hung all around the dock yard and viewed from the surrounding peaks to make sure no one could see the ship being built. The dock had to be extended by excavating part of the mountain behind it. Patrols walked the ridges behind it and nearly 2000 Chinese were forced from the city. A large warehouse was built to block the view from the British and US cousouls which lay directly opposite the bay from the dock. The launch date was not revealed to anyone including the workers and rather than a large crowd, only 30 officials showed up and traveled to and from Nagasaki in civilian clothes. Nearly 2,000 soldiers were bought in and ordered to keep their backs to the bay as they made sure no one looked out during the launch. Two solders were assigned to each foreign home, one to each of the others.

Most of the materials had to be manufactured at Kure and Nagasaki had to built a special ship to bring the completed turrets and each of the guns to the ship. Most rivet in shipbuilding were 1.5 cm and rarely 2.8 cm were used. The hull required exceptionally hard rivets 4 cm in size, and the first batch of 16,000 were thrown away when it was discovered they all had to be manufactured oversize and then shimmed down to fit each hole individually.

The last two chapters deal with the career and ultimate loss of the Musashi from the crews point of view. The narrative is fascinating and names of engineers, workers and crew fill the pages. I had to check the printing date as after several chapters I felt it was written by one of those involved.

Eight pages of picture are included and the inside of the front bookend include a detailed two view while the back bookend has five views showing the location of the 19 torpedo hits, 18 bomb hits, 17 near misses next to the hull and which compartments were flooded prior to sinking. I enjoyed this book very much.



TCAH Officers

President, Steve Jantscher

Vice-President, Steve Shaffer

Secretary, Bob Maderich

Treasurer, Dennis Strand

Historian, Merrill Anderson

Newsletter Info

Article Submission Deadline: 22nd of each month

Editor

Bob Arko

6417 Rice Court

Lino Lakes, MN 55014

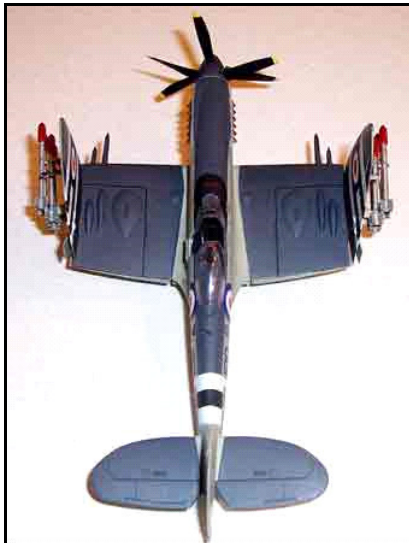
651-481-8887

boba@arkokraft.com

Send Change of Address Notice to:
Dennis Strand

TCAH This Month

The monthly meeting will be held February 8, at Fleming Field, South St. Paul, beginning at 1:00 pm. Come early.



Secretary's Report

by Bob Maderich

Hello all, your faithful secretary here to report on the wonderful January meeting.

It was our annual club contest and we had over 70 great models on the table. What a testament to the vitality of the club. Thanks again to all who participated.

We discussed some new ideas for 2020, one being a common kit build. We will need to discuss this further at February's meeting and come to some decision. A great idea, that we can display at next years club contest.

Here are some of the ideas we discussed for the coming year, month by month.

February- We will be taking nominations for the club awards.

March- It is the annual auction. Bring your unwanted stuff and \$\$\$\$

April- the Awards luncheon, oohh free food!

May- We will vote on our special awards for the 2020 Nordicon show. Also, maybe some thought should be given to sponsoring some awards at this years IPMS Nationals.

June- Our illustrious Prez, will do a demo on modeling gizmos

July- Sean will talk about 3-D printing.

August- Russian Aircraft

September- Your oldest kit built or in your stash, this should be interesting.

October- Space Force! Any Sci-fi or real space models

Treasurer's Report

by Dennis Strand

The expenses for the last 30 days have consisted of \$360.00 for club contest prizes and \$30.00 for an IPMS membership for a club officer. The club took in \$30.00 from two membership renewals.

During January, I plan to send out reminders to people on the roster who have not yet renewed. We may be able to pick up a couple more TCAH members. We currently have 50 paid members and 9 life members.



CAF Update

by Dennis Strand

Bob Arko's three paintings have been mounted above the TCAH display case at the CAF hangar. I also hung a small framed sheet of paper that describes TCAH's purpose and meeting times. This will supplement our little brochure rack. The one final thing I would like to do in order to complete our presentation is to include a title plaque or sign that describes the display. There are labels for all the individual models, but this would pull the whole thing together. Something simple and to the point, such as "US Naval Aviation of WWII" or similar. This could be put on the wall or in the display case. Any suggestions are welcomed.



November- we will be accepting nominations for all 4 of the club officers.

December- the infamous "White Elephant" gift exchange



Annual Club Contest Results
Compiled by Sean Brzozowski

Category 1: WWI and Biplanes		
1st place	Bob Maderich	Fokker DVII
2nd place	Steve Erickson	SS DW III
3rd place	Don Stauffer	DeHavilland Rapide
Category 2: 1/72 Propeller Aircraft		
1st place	Steve Stauffer	Shackleton
2nd place	Erik Zabel	Focke-Wulf A16
3rd place	Randy Worringer	Convair 440
Category 3: 1/48 Propeller Aircraft		
1st place	Dennis Strand	Beaufighter
2nd place	Steve Erickson	P-38H
3rd place	Steve Shaffer	Ki-45
Category 4: 1/72 Jet Aircraft		
1st place	Jeff Campbell	KA-3B
2nd place	Steve Jantscher	F-14D
3rd place	Greta Engelstad	Me-262A
Category 5: 1/48 Jet Aircraft		
1st place	Steve Rewey	F-15C
2nd place	Dave Heffernan	F-104G
3rd place	Steve Shaffer	F-4C
Category 6: 1/32 Aircraft		
1st place	Steve Shaffer	NF-104
2nd place	Marty Agather	Bf-109G

(Continued on page 4)

Category 7: Armor, All scales		
1st place	Bob Maderich	Char B2
2nd place	Erik Zabel	Stuart M5A1
3rd place	Bill Read	MATV
Category 8: Ships, All scales		
1st place	Dennis Strand	PT Boat
2nd place	Don Stauffer	USS Saratoga
3rd place	Erik Zabel	Submarines
Category 9: Automotive, All scales		
1st place	Erik Zabel	Ford Woody
2nd place	Steve Shaffer	Ford GT
3rd place	Bob Maderich	32 Cadillac
Category 10: Sci-Fi		
1st place	Steve Shaffer	K'tinga
2nd place	Marty Agather	Tie-striker
Category 11: Misc		
1st place	Steve Shaffer	AH-1Z Viper
2nd place	Gabe Engelstad	Diorama
Category 12: Club Challenge		
1st place	Dave Perzel	F-101B
2nd place	Steve Shaffer	F-16
3rd place	Jeff Campbell	KA-3B