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McFarland & Company Inc

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Science & Technology
Engineering

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35394
Dean, William Patrick. **Ultra-large aircraft, 1940-1970: the development of guppy and expanded fuselage transports.** McFarland, 2018. 304p bibl index ISBN 9781476665030 pbk, \$49.95; ISBN 9781476630151 ebook, contact publisher for price.

This is a history of "big fat" transport aircraft. The most famous and recognizable of this class are the "Guppies." The book also records the contributions of John "Jack" Conroy, a prominent figure in the field of ultra-large aircraft. Conroy was an actor, aviator, WW II POW, speed record holder in an F-86A Sabre, and founder of an airline manufacturer specializing in ultra-large aircraft. He made the case to aerospace engineer Wernher von Braun that NASA needed ultra-large aircraft for the health of the Apollo Program, and von Braun became an advocate of Conroy's initiative, which resulted in the Pregnant Guppy airplane, responsible for transporting Saturn Rocket stages to NASA for assembly. Dean, himself a retired Air Force pilot, discusses the concepts, designs, financing, corporate entities, performance, and operational histories of ultra-large aircraft. The main aircraft described are the XC-99, the C-74 Globemaster, the Stratocruiser series, the Pregnant Guppy, the Super Guppy, the Mini Guppy, and the Super Guppy Turbine. This work is an important contribution to the history of aviation and a fine treatment of these enormous, ungainly looking airplanes. A worthwhile read for all interested in transport aircraft and the history of aviation.

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Summing Up: Recommended. All readers.