



## Luftwaffe Over America: The Secret Plans to Bomb the United States in World War II

*By Manfred Griehl*

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### **Luftwaffe Over America: The Secret Plans to Bomb the United States in World War II** By Manfred Griehl

This thought-provoking book examines the Nazi German plans to raid – and bomb – New York and the eastern seaboard in the event of a successful invasion of the Soviet Union.

The plans rested upon the use of transoceanic aircraft, such as the six-engined Ju 390, Me 264 or Ta 400. The Third Reich was unable to produce these machines in sufficient numbers, however, if the Soviet Union had been conquered, these plans would have become a reality. With the seizure of vital resources from the Soviet Union the Wehrmacht would have had enough fuel and material to mass-produce giant bomber aircraft: it was a near-run thing. The collapse of the Wehrmacht infrastructure and the premature end of the Thousand Year Reich ensured that plans for long-range remote-controlled missiles never got past the drawing board.

This fascinating, thoroughly researched study offers valuable insights into how Germany developed new weapons and shows why the attempts to develop long range bombers were frustrated until they were terminated by the end of hostilities. Includes more than a hundred rarely seen photographs and original plans.

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### **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

Although the German Air Force of WWII, the Luftwaffe, was almost exclusively a battlefield air force, the historical footnote of German long-range, strategic aircraft is covered in a solid fashion by the prolific Griehl (Luftwaffe at War, etc.). The heart of the book is an accurate history of the development of a plethora of long-range experimental airplanes and the strategic policy decisions that drove this development, such as reconnaissance over the Atlantic Ocean and plans to bomb the U.S. Quotations from conferences of the Luftwaffe high command on the problems of aircraft development and plans for the air war highlight the story. Although few of the aircraft covered had any impact on the air war in Europe, they do make interesting reading as sidebars to the conflict and precursors of postwar developments in jet aircraft and rockets. The latter, such as the well-known V-1 and V-2, are given cursory treatment, but a chapter on ordnance and bombs has been included that nicely complements the aircraft featured. The unique characteristics and performance of the many aircraft covered—from the ME 264 long range bomber designed to bomb American industries to the Raumgleiter, a "rocket bomber" that would fly outside the earth's atmosphere (a precursor to America's Space Shuttle)—are explained in simple terms, suitable for the non-specialist. Little combat action and few flying tales have been included; unusual aircraft are the thrust of the book. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

### **Review**

Interesting drawings and photos of six engined bomber projects with well researched text, including a final account of Hitlers progress towards a nuclear bomb, with test explosions --By Mr. J. Cliffe

This interesting and well written book examines developments in Nazi Germany to conduct a strategic bombing campaign against the United States following a successful invasion of the Soviet Union. Fortunately for the American people, the German invasion of Russia was not so successful. Had it been, Adolph Hitler would have had the resources available to produce enough long-range strategic bombers to pummel the American east coast. The style of the book is a bit technologically oriented. Nonetheless, there is a great deal that the reader will find eye-opening. First, are indications that the Nazis may have detonated two small atomic bombs late in the war, indicating that they were much further along in the development of atomic weapons than has been previously believed. Certainly the portion of the book devoted to trans-Atlantic bombers is of tremendous interest, especially since the Third Reich's flying wings appear to be precursors of American Stealth aircraft. The Germans also experimented with mid-air refueling for their bombers and the use of towed, winged fuel tanks. I found the parts of the book devoted to submarine launched ballistic missiles and even submerged barge-launched ballistic missiles of particular interest, proving that there are few obstacles that human ingenuity and technology cannot overcome. Finally, the author discusses the threat of Nazi weapons of mass destruction, especially chemical and biological weapons. It is for good reason, then, that the Americans classified documents discussing all these developments for a period of 100 years following the Second World War. Particularly disturbing were hints by the author that some of the German WWII underground facilities, which may have numbered in the several hundreds, were never found. Could there be a Nazi flying wing, loaded with weapons of mass destruction, waiting in some long-forgotten underground hanger? An interesting read! --By Gilberto Villahermosa

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#### About the Author

MANFRED GRIEHL was a renowned aviation expert and the author of Luftwaffe X-Planes: German Experimental Aircraft of World War II.

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