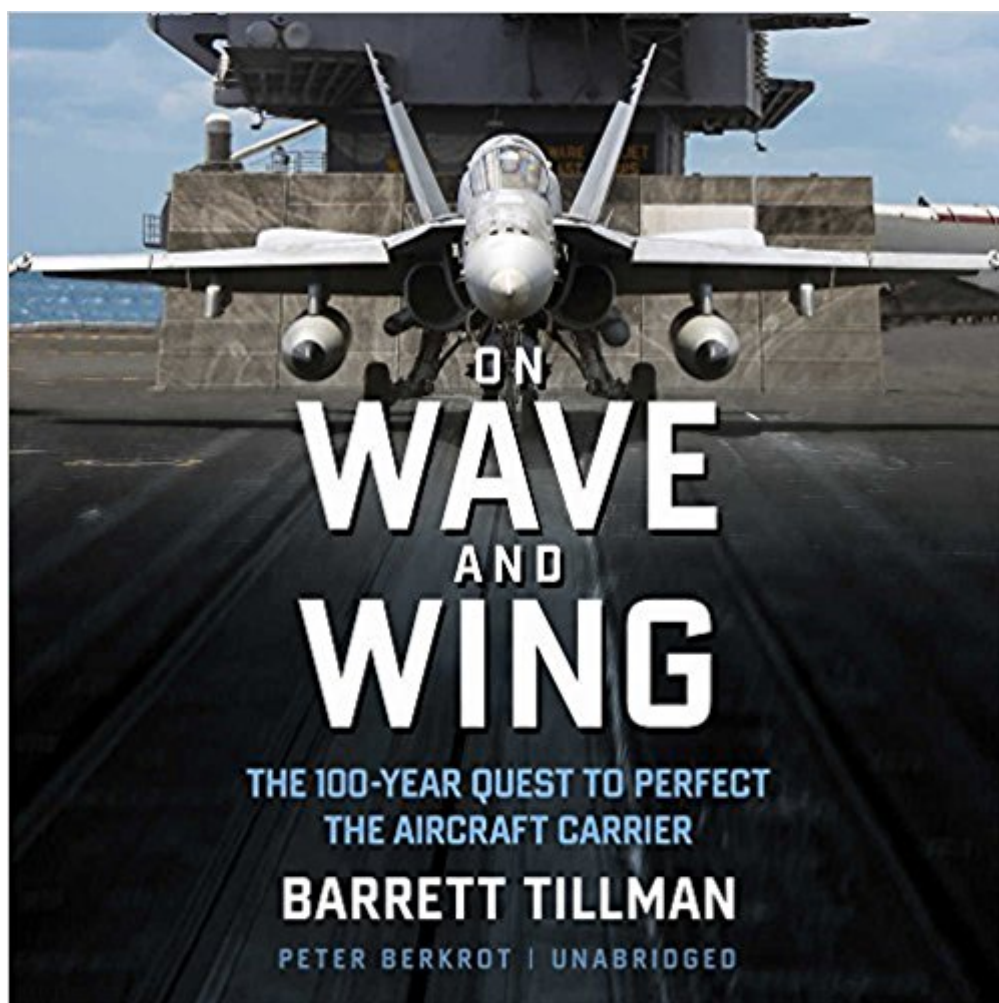


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# On Wave And Wing: The 100 Year Quest To Perfect The Aircraft Carrier



## Synopsis

[Read by Peter Berkrot] A history of the aircraft carrier from a military and aircraft expert. What defended the US after the attack on Pearl Harbor, defeated the Soviet Union in the Cold War, and is an essential tool in the fight against terror? Aircraft carriers. For seventy years, these ships remained a little understood cornerstone of American power. In his latest book, *On Wave and Wing*, Barrett Tillman sheds light on the history of these floating leviathans and offers a nuanced analysis of the largest man-made vessel in the history of the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Even in today's virtual, cyber world there is still nothing like being able to impose 100,000 tons of sovereign territory, unbridled and with the bit in the teeth, within a potential enemy's scheme of maneuver. Read on then and learn. Barrett Tillman captures it all through his years of research and myriad interviews with those who have been there and seen the elephant, so prepare to take in all lines and get underway with the best maritime -aviation storyteller of them all." --Captain Todd Zecchin, USN (Ret), final commanding officer of USS John F. Kennedy (CV-67) and USS Kitty Hawk (CV-63)"On Wave and Wing is a superlative account of the development of aircraft carriers of all nations and the people who man them, from Eugene Ely's historic first launch from a ship in 1910 to the present. Author Barrett Tillman, a consummate authority on naval aviation, highlights his narrative with accounts from aviators and sailors who have 'been there and done that' for a century. On Wave and Wing describes 'flattops' as indispensable assets in America's defense posture, and is so well written it's like a novel you can't put down. Strongly recommended." --Captain Rosario

Rausa, USN (Ret), editor, *Wings of Gold*”In all of his nonfiction histories and novels, Barrett Tillman always presents a magnificent account of naval history, naval aviation, and World War II. *On Wave and Wing* is a comprehensive, finely-crafted account of aircraft carrier and naval aviation evolution from the beginnings in the British Royal Navy to the present, replete with expert analysis intermingled with the personal stories of significant aviators and naval aviation shakers and movers.” --Stanley D. M. Carpenter, professor of strategy and policy, U.S. Naval War College

Barrett Tillman is a widely recognized expert on air warfare in World War II and the author of more than forty nonfiction and fiction books on military topics, including *Whirlwind*. His work has been cited in dozens of history books and has been used as course work by the US Air Force, Navy, and Marine Corps. The former managing editor of *The Hook*, he is frequently seen in television documentaries in the United States and Europe. He has received numerous awards for history and literature, including the Admiral Arthur Radford Award.

Barrett Tillman is our leading historian specializing in Naval Aviation. Beginning with Eugene Ely's first takeoff and landing from anchored ships, to the latest supercarrier, Barrett writes of how aircraft carriers have evolved and the role they have played in war and peace right up to the time the book went to press. This magnificent book needs to be in the library of everyone interested in our nation's navy, naval aviation, and the good America can do in today's world. Sadly, drones may make manned carrier aviation obsolete in the wars of the future, but oh, what a magnificent saga Barrett tells of the past hundred years of men, ships and airplanes. Barrett's appendix compiling great carrier aviation movies from Hollywood is the cherry on the sundae. I am going to see how many I can find on Netflix.

On December 7, 1941, the Imperial Japanese Navy let the world know the age of the battleship was over and the age of the aircraft carrier had begun. For the next four years, no ships had greater significance in the Pacific War than aircraft carriers, a position they still maintain to this day. From their very humble beginnings in the pre-World War I years, all the way through the continuing conflicts in the Middle East, Barrett Tillman gives a concise history of the ships which have changed the face of naval warfare and become the ultimate show of force on the high seas. The first attempts to launch an aircraft from a ship took place in 1910 and it wasn't until 1917 that the first carrier was launched. Since that time, there have been myriad changes, innovations, and upgrades to both the ships and the planes which they carry. From the earliest biplanes through today's drones and

all-purpose aircraft, Tillman tells a tale of trial and error as the world's navies have aimed to maximize the carrier's effectiveness and enable it to carry out any offensive mission. The carriers themselves have changed tremendously as well: angled flight decks, better crew accommodations, nuclear power and increased safety measures are just some of the differences chronicled here. Since the vast majority of all carriers ever built have been American ones, the book focuses primarily on the American side of things, but there is good representation of the British and Japanese, along with information on other countries such as France, India, Russia and China. Now, a book about aircraft carriers wouldn't be complete without talking combat, and while all the battles in the Pacific in World War II could take up hundreds of pages by themselves, Tillman has given a condensed telling of the major ones. The conflicts in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East, along with smaller ones like the Falklands War and the Indo-Pakistani War, get their share of ink as well. The book contains pictures throughout, interspersed with the text. To me, this was one of the highlights as they really helped show how the aircraft carrier and its planes have evolved over the years. There's a section of color photographs as well, mostly of post-World War II planes and ships. One of the final bits in the book is a listing of movies which have featured aircraft carriers in some capacity. Tillman's analysis of some, while not exactly the same as Siskel and Ebert, certainly made me chuckle as he takes Hollywood to task. Barrett Tillman has been writing books on naval aviation for many years, and his knowledge and expertise on the subject shine through repeatedly. Another job well done, but then, I didn't expect anything less.

If you are at all interested in aircraft carriers, naval aviation and the carrier battles of WWII this book is a must read (and if not you should be!). As in all his books, Barrett Tillman details a fascinating subject including developments by the US and foreign navies, first person anecdotes that bring the story to life and an excellent overview of carriers coming to age during WWII.

At first glance, it might seem that naval aviation has been covered so extensively and by so many outstanding historians that it is hard to justify yet another book on the evolution of the aircraft carrier. That is, until one reads Barrett Tillman's latest book, *On Wave and Wing*. Having first made his name nearly a half-century ago with what is still the definitive history of the Douglas SBD Dauntless, Tillman has produced a succession of outstanding works on various aspects of naval aviation, naval aircraft, specific wars and campaigns, and military affairs. This book shows that he has not lost his touch for blending first-rate research, keen insight, and clear, accessible prose to produce a book that is both definitive and fascinating. In a year of exceptional naval aviation studies--VAdm Robert

Dunn's Gear Up, Mishaps Down, and Robert "Boom" Powell's Wave-Off! come immediately to mind--Barrett Tillman has produced a standout work, one belonging in the collections of anyone interested in the development of the carrier, its role in war, and its place in America's national security strategy. Bravo Zulu!

Excellent!

My husband and my dad loved this book. My husband read my dad's and liked it so much he had to buy a copy for himself.

Good read. Any history buff would do well to spend the time reading this book. A good reminder of the sacrifices made over the years by Naval aviation.

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