

## **MARTIN P5M-2 MARLIN**

### HEAVY TWIN-ENGINEED AMPHIBIAN FLYING-BOAT

The Marlin was in fact, the heir of the PBM-5 Mariner, a flying boat built in 1949 for the US Navy (1 366 examples). The prototype of the American maritime patrol flying-boat Martin XP5M-1 Marlin, motorized with two Wright R-3350s of 3 450 hp made its first flight on May 30th 1948. In 1950, the serial version was defined by Martin and the main differences between this version and the prototype were :

- Self-defence weapons were replaced by a radome (AN/APS-44 radar).
- New kind of engine, two Wright R-3350-30 WAs of 3 250 hp (which was also P2V-5 Neptune's engines).

The following versions of the Marlin were built :

- XP5M-1 Marlin (prototype), motorized by two Wright R-3350s of 3 450 hp.
- P5M-1 (114 examples).
- P5M-1S (80 planes), with upgraded electronic equipments
- P5M-2 (145 examples) built for USN and USCG.
- P5M-1G (7 examples), used by the USCG.
- P5M-1T, training version of the plane.
- SP-5, SIGINT/ ELINT version of the aircraft, used by the USN over Viet-Nam.

It was ordered by the US Navy (two versions, P5M-1 and P5M-2). First serial example, flew in June 1951, and was delivered in April 1952. Martin built for one year 114 P5M-1s and 80 P5M-1Ss. In 1953, a new version with new engines (two Wright R-3350-32 WA "Turbo Compound" of 3 450 hp) and a new vertical stabilisator appeared. It made its first flight in August 1953. 145 P5M-2s were built for the US Navy (VP-40, -45, -48 and -50 squadrons) and for the USCG.



Martin P5M Marlin no. 14 of VP-44 "Pelicans" seen here on its home base NAS Norfolk, Virginia, USA on May 16<sup>th</sup> 1961.

## FRENCH NAVY SERVICE



Martin P5M Marlin, 5, of 27 Flottille French Navy, seen here at Dakar-Belair , Senegal in September 1962

When the French Navy needed to replace its old Short Sunderlands based at NAS Dakar, ten examples of the Marlin (BuAer 146440-445 and BuAer 147539-542) were delivered within the Mutual Defence Aid Pact. The first P5M-2 of the French Navy was named by Mrs Poncet (Naval Attaché Admiral's wife) on January 9th 1959 at Baltimore (USA). French crews were trained at NAS Corpus-Christi and NAS Norfolk until May 1959. The aircraft were convoyed from Norfolk to Dakar, stopping over at the following country's airfields : Guantanamo (Cuba), Port of Spain (Trinity Islands), Belem (Brazil) and Natal (Brazil). It lasted ten flight hours, and 3 000 km. First Marlins landed at NAS Dakar on May 8th 1959, at 6 h 30 PM. The 10th example was put in reserve at NS Toulon. The aircraft were given back to the USA on August 26th 1964 and the only flying-Marlin unit of the French Navy, the 27F, was dissolved on October 1st 1964. It was the last flying-boat type used by the French Navy. It could accommodate eleven crew members.

### Weapons

It was equipped with :

- Four 980 kg torpedoes.
- Four 900 kg mines or bombs.
- Height 450 kg mines.
- Sixteen 230 kg bombs.
- Sixteen 150 kg depth charges.

### Specifications

Length	30.18m
Wingspan	36.00m
Height	10.60m
Weight	21.310kg empty 33.180kg full
▪ Max. speed	395km/u
▪ Range	5000km