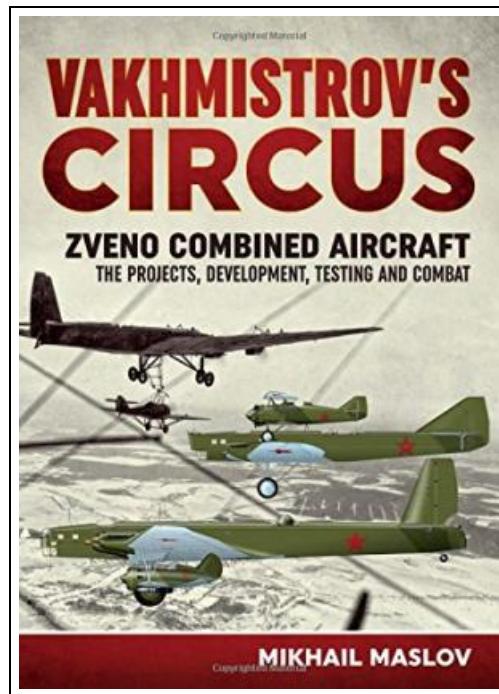


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Helion Company, United Kingdom, 2017. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. The purpose of this publication is to provide readers with most complete history of combined aircraft designs created by Vladimir Vakhmistrov. The designer himself referred to his projects as Zveno Aircraft (where the Russian word Zveno stands for Chain link or Flight combat unit), adding the names of aircraft which were included in each configuration. Vakhmistrov was among the world's pioneers in devising and implementing the attachment of small fighters under heavy bombers. The larger aircraft were thus able to carry the smaller ones to the target area, whereas the fighters, in their turn, after the separation from their motherships, acted as guards for the slow-speed giants. During the period from 1931 thru 1941, several configurations of this concept were created involving mass-produced TB-1 and TB-3 bombers, and I-4, I-5, I-Zet, and I-16 fighters, which were modified correspondingly in order to fit the task. Basing on Vakhmistrov's projects there were carried out the first in the world air connections of fighters under their bomber carriers. The most successful variant among all the created Zveno aircraft consisted of a four-engined Tupolev TB-3 bomber and two Polikarpov I-16 fighters attached under the bomber's wing. The fighters carried two 250-kg bombs each and acted as a high-speed dive bombers after disconnection from the carrier plane. Several such aircraft, referred to as Zveno-SPB, were used operationally during the war by the Black Sea Fleet Air Force. Initially, three TB-3s with AM-34RN engines were allocated for re-equipment into Zveno-SPB which were taken into service by the 2nd Special Squadron of the 32nd Fighter Regiment, 62nd Aviation Brigade of the Black Sea Fleet Air Force stationed in Eupatoria. The order to begin combat application of the 32nd Regiment...

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