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# Valkyrie: The North American XB-70: The USA s Ill-Fated Supersonic Heavy Bomber (Paperback)

By Graham M. Simons

Pen Sword Books Ltd, United Kingdom, 2014. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. During the 1950s, at the time Elvis Presley was rocking the world with Hound Dog and the USA was aiming to become the world s only superpower, plans were being drawn at North American Aviation in Southern California for an incredible Mach-3 strategic bomber. The concept was born as a result of General Curtis LeMay s desire for a heavy bomber with the weapon load and range of the subsonic B-52 and a top speed in excess of the supersonic medium bomber, the B-58 Hustler. If LeMay s plans came to fruition there would be 250 Valkyries in the air; it would be the pinnacle of his quest for the ultimate strategic bomber operated by America s Strategic Air Command. The design was a leap into the future that pushed the envelope in terms of exotic materials, avionics and power plants. However, in April 1961, Defense Secretary McNamara stopped the production go-ahead for the B-70 on grounds of rapid cost escalation and the USSR s newfound ability of destroying aircraft at extremely high altitude by either missiles or the new Mig-25 fighter. Nevertheless, in1963...



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