

Building the **FLYING FORTRESS**

AN UNSTOPPABLE FLOW OF BOEING B-17G BOMBERS WAS POURING FROM THREE PRODUCTION LINES AND HEADING STRAIGHT FOR THE AXIS— PART NINE

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Illustrating the importance of the female work force to the overall war effort, these lady "Production Soldiers" are engaged in completing B-17G rear fuselages with the installation of rudder control components. Since the early production B-17Gs were merely redesignated B-17Fs, there was no break in production or deliveries at the model changeover. Maximum production was achieved at Boeing when 16 B-17Gs a day were being built in April 1944. The first flight of a B-17G was undertaken on 21 May 1943. Deliveries from Boeing began on 4 September of that year and continued until 13 April 1945. Final B-17G production was at Lockheed Vega with the last one delivered on 29 July 1945. This photograph shows a number of interesting details including the fact the interior was left in bare aluminum finish. Note the factory markings from the aluminum maker on the exterior skin — most of the time these would be removed but some aircraft were delivered with markings still partially in place.

