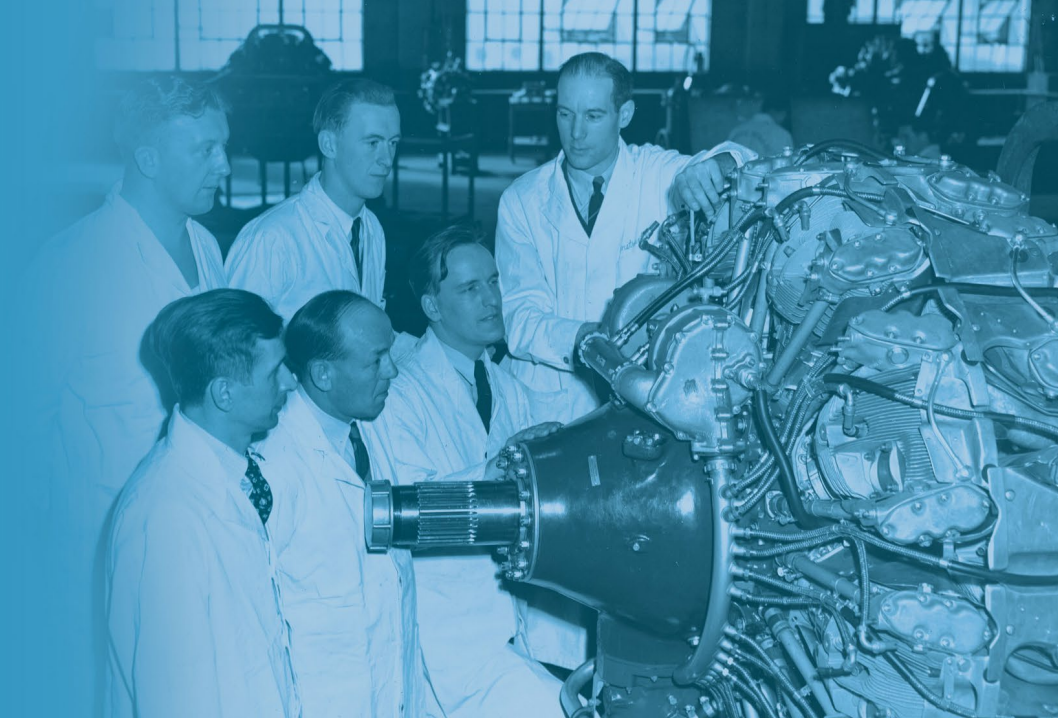




The Company



Wright Aeronautical Corporation traces its roots back to Orville and Wilbur Wright, inventors of the world's first successful airplane. In 1916, the Wright Company merged with the Glenn L. Martin Company, becoming the Wright-Martin Aircraft Corporation, based in New Brunswick, NJ. After World War I, under the new name of Wright Aeronautical Corporation, their factory relocated to Paterson, NJ. In 1929, the company underwent another merger and became the airplane engine division of the Curtiss-Wright Corporation.

In 1920, the Paterson factory began as a four-story building located at 238 Lindbergh Place. Wright expanded over time until the area spanned 6.7 acres, bounded by Beckwith Avenue, the Erie Lackawanna (Conrail) railroad tracks, and Louis Street (now Lindbergh Place). The Paterson facility was described as "the largest airplane engine factory in the United States," by the 1939 Federal Writers' Project. It employed over 2,400 workers at any given time.

As production increased, the Paterson Plant expanded from 90,000 sq feet to become a 2.3 million sq. feet facility.



Wright Aeronautical Corporation
Rhythm Rubus, Hill Billy Band,
1943.



Softball players from Wright's Production Engineer Team
being awarded the Chapman Trophy, 1941.



Wright Aero Women's
Basketball Team,
1929-1930.
Courtesy of the Passaic County
Historical Society, Curtiss-Wright
Collection.

The employees of Wright Aeronautical formed a community that extended beyond work. From bands and orchestras to a variety of sports teams and clubs, the employees of Wrights played together. The company picnic every summer was a favorite event among many of the employee's children and is still remembered with fondness.