



American Military Heritage Foundation

**Dedicated to preserving, in flying condition, a Vintage PV-2 Harpoon
in memory of all who fought on behalf of the United States of America**

“And now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been.”

Rainer Maria Rilke, poet, writer

January/February 2021

If you start by reading the above quote, we are all off into uncharted time that has never been experienced before. Therefore, it will all be new to each one of us. This might be a good time to consider how we use our time . How often do we stop to think about that? There is an old expression that goes like this. Yesterday is past so we are unable to do anything with it. Tomorrow isn't here yet so we can't work with it. So, that only leaves today to work with.

One thing about this year I should have much more time to read. If you wonder, why I say that I have stopped watching the news except for trying to see how big a story the weather people will give us, and the television is basically living on reruns. However, this may not all work out due to the fact I generally fall asleep while reading. Now that isn't all bad provided the book isn't so heavy it hurts when it falls in your face.

Our annual maintenance check is ongoing, with the chin gun access panel currently off the plane for repair and Dzus fastener replacement. This activity will be greatly facilitated with a hangar to shelter us and the plane from the elements. Even without that benefit and under the

effects of the pandemic, we accomplished many things this past year. I see no reason that we shouldn't do even better this coming year.

The BOD has met twice this year on zoom and there is another meeting soon. We are making plans to move the organization forward, with the major focus being on marketing and fundraising which are, of course, central to our success. These are open meetings, so if you have input you would like to present please let us now.

Let's make this a Great year,

Gaylon

There is a story attached that I believe you might enjoy. No doubt you have seen all the bits and pieces in other places. However, I have never seen this much all in one lot. It came to me via someone on the internet, imagine that. There was an individual's name attached to it and I was leery of using it. Since his name and phone number were attached, I decided to give him a call. After talking with Mr. Sampson, he was happy to let me include it in our newsletter. I might add Mr. Sampson does a considerable amount of work each year to recognize our veterans.

79 years ago, Seems Impossible

My father-in-law was a waist gunner on a B-17 in Europe. His mother accepted his high school diploma as he was at basic training. His war ended after D-day when they were shot down over the English Channel. He was injured but lived on into his 70's. He seldom spoke of the war to me. His best friend, a veteran and neighbor died earlier this year. He was over 100 years old.

Please take the time to read through this. It is quite a summary of the WW2 effort and the folks that made it happen. When I do the Memorial Day speech at the cemetery each year, I think people are shocked when they hear about how much hardware, ammunition and manhours came out of our little community of Ankeny, IA, and the Ordinance Plant....4 million cartridges a day for 1,000 days...that is 4 billion...and that before Pearl Harbor the US had the 16th largest armed forces in the world...just behind Sweden. Imagine that....and now, read this...slowly.

PROBABLY NEVER TO BE DISCUSSED AGAIN IN HISTORY CLASSES IN HIGH SCHOOL AND CERTAINLY NOT OUR FINE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING



During the 3-1/2 years of World War II that started with the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in December of 1941 and ended with the surrender of Germany and Japan in 1945, "We the People of the U.S.A." produced the following:

22 aircraft carriers

8 battleships

48 cruisers

349 destroyers

420 destroyer escorts

203 submarines

34 million tons of merchant ships

100,000 fighter aircraft

98,000 bombers

24,000 transport aircraft

58,000 training aircraft

93,000 tanks

257,000 artillery pieces

105,000 mortars

3,000,000 machine guns and

2,500,000 military trucks

We put 16.1 million men in uniform in the various armed services, invaded Africa, invaded Sicily, and Italy, won the battle for the Atlantic, planned and executed D-Day, marched across the Pacific and Europe, developed the atomic bomb and, ultimately, conquered Japan and Germany.

It's amazing what America did in those days

Many of you already know the story, here is the update.

THE FINAL TOAST

The text below references the movie *"Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo."*

There is a second film made in 1944 that details the "show" trials of the 11 airmen that were captured & tortured by the Japanese titled *"The Purple Heart."*

Three were executed as war criminals, a fourth died in captivity.

The FINAL TOAST! They bombed Tokyo 78 years ago.

They once were among the most universally admired and revered men in the United States. There were 80 of the Raiders in April 1942, when they carried out one of the most courageous and heart-stirring military operations in this nation's history. The mere mention of their unit's name, in those years, would bring tears to the eyes of grateful Americans.



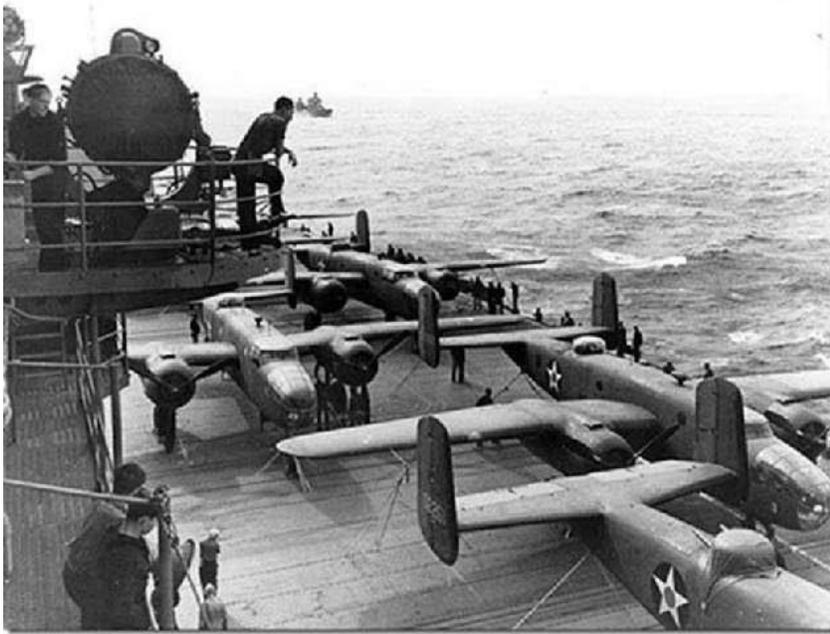
"The last Raider, Dick Cole, passed away in 2019"

After Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, with the United States reeling and wounded, something dramatic was needed to turn the war effort around. Even though there were no friendly airfields close enough to Japan for the United States to launch a retaliation, a daring plan was devised.

Sixteen B-25s were modified so that they could take off from the deck of an aircraft carrier.

This had never been tried -- sending such big, heavy bombers from a carrier.

B-25Bs parked on board USS Hornet during the Doolittle Raid, April 1942



The 16 five-man crews, under the command of Lt. Col. James Doolittle, who himself flew the lead plane off the USS Hornet,

knew that they would not be able to return to the carrier.

They would have to hit Japan and then hope to make it to China for a safe landing.



But on the day of the raid, the Japanese military caught wind of the plan.

The Raiders were told that they would have to take off from much farther out in the Pacific Ocean than they had counted on.

**They were told that because of this they would not have enough fuel to make it to safety.
And those men went anyway.**

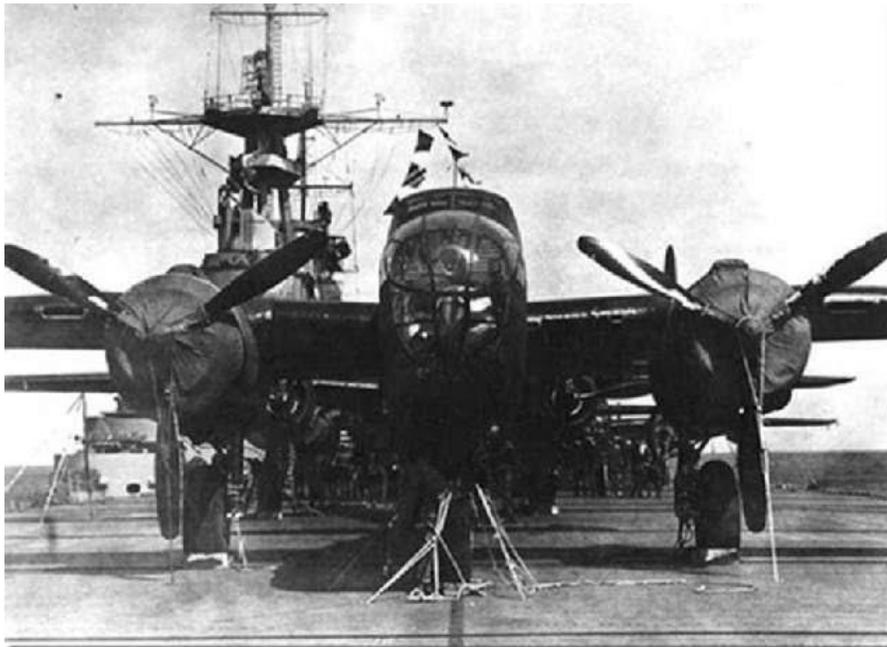


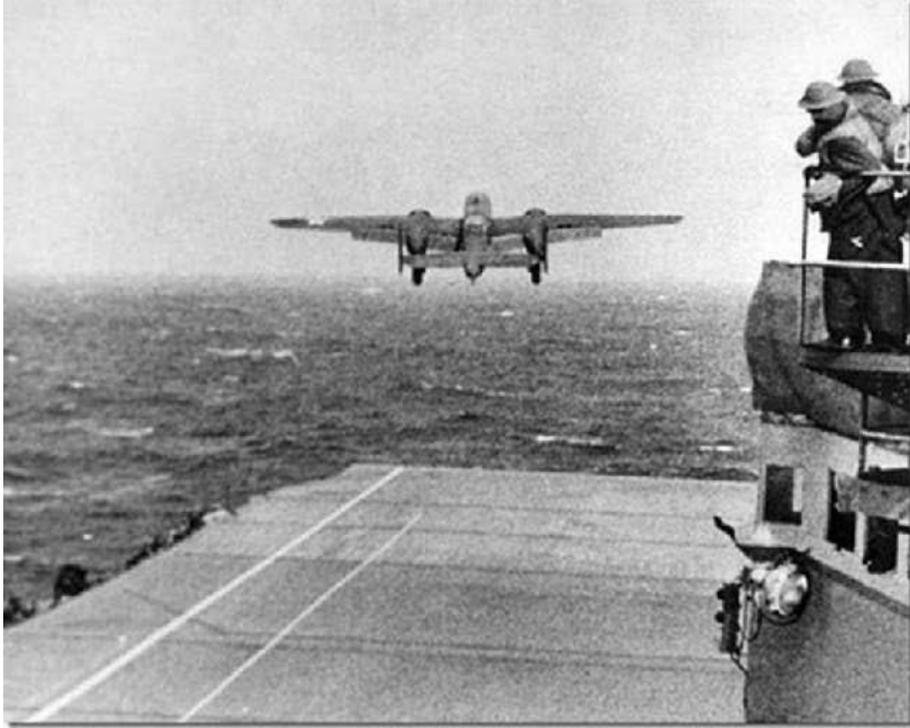
They bombed Tokyo and then flew as far as they could.

Four planes crash-landed; 11 more crews bailed out, and three of the Raiders died.

Eight more were captured; three were executed.

Another died of starvation in a Japanese prison camp. One crew made it to Russia





B-25Bs on board USS Hornet, while en route to raid Japan, April 1942





The Doolittle Raiders sent a message from the United States to its enemies, and to the rest of the world: We will fight. And, no matter what it takes, we will win.

Of the 80 Raiders, 62 survived the war. They were celebrated as national heroes, models of bravery.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer produced a motion picture based on the raid; "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo ,"

starring Spencer Tracy and Van Johnson, was a patriotic and emotional box-office hit,

and the phrase became part of the national lexicon.

In the movie-theater previews for the film, MGM proclaimed that it was presenting the story.....

"with supreme pride."



Beginning in 1946, the surviving Raiders have held a reunion each April, to commemorate the mission. The reunion is in a different city each year. In 1959, the city of Tucson , Arizona , as a gesture of respect and gratitude,

presented the Doolittle Raiders with a set of 80 silver goblets.

Each goblet was engraved with the name of a Raider.

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Huge Celebration Here To Greet Peace

Area Plants Seek Postwar Help

Despite setbacks in production, industry of Camden, N. J., is expected to flourish in the postwar period. The plants in this area which were closed during the war are now being reopened and the industry is expected to flourish in the postwar period. The industry of Camden, N. J., is expected to flourish in the postwar period. The industry of Camden, N. J., is expected to flourish in the postwar period.

TO GOVERN JAPAN



Several of the men who were captured in the attack on Tokyo are now being held in Japan. They are being held in a camp near Tokyo. They are being held in a camp near Tokyo. They are being held in a camp near Tokyo.

PEACE GETS WILD WELCOME

A sudden outburst of joy was heard in Camden, N. J., on Thursday night. The people were celebrating the end of the war. The people were celebrating the end of the war. The people were celebrating the end of the war.

GATHER IN CROWDS

Thousands of people gathered in Camden, N. J., to celebrate the end of the war. The people were celebrating the end of the war. The people were celebrating the end of the war.

MINNEAPOLIS

Minneapolis Morning Tribune

Published Daily Except on Sundays and Public Holidays

TOKYO BOMBED, JAPS SAY; ADMIT DAMAGE IS HEAVY

U.S. Troops War Tamed To Be Near

What Is Tokyo? Heart of Nation of 96 Mil. Is People Who Hope to Rule the World

Radio Tells of Casualties to Civilians

TOKYO: FULL PAGE OF PICTURES ON PAGE 8



Every year, a wooden display case bearing all 80 goblets is transported to the reunion city.

Each time a Raider passes away, his goblet is turned upside down in the case at the next reunion,

as his old friends bear solemn witness.



Also in the wooden case is a bottle of 1896 Hennessy Very Special cognac

The year is not happenstance: 1896 was when Jimmy Doolittle was born.



**There has always been a plan: When there are only two surviving Raiders,
they would open the bottle, at last drink from it,
and toast their comrades who preceded them in death.**

**As 2013 began, there were five living Raiders: then, in February,
Tom Griffin passed away at age 96.**



What a man he was. After bailing out of his plane

**Over a mountainous Chinese forest after the Tokyo raid, he became ill
with malaria,**

**and almost died. When he recovered, he was sent to Europe to fly more
combat missions.**

He was shot down, captured, and spent 22 months in a German prisoner of war camp.



The selflessness of these men, the sheer guts ... There was a passage in the Cincinnati Enquirer obituary for Mr. Griffin that, on the surface, had nothing to do with the war, but that was emblematic of the depth of his sense of duty and devotion:

"When his wife became ill and needed to go into a nursing home, he visited her every day.

He walked from his house to the nursing home, fed his wife,

and at the end of the day brought home her clothes. At night, he washed and ironed her clothes.

Then he walked them up to her room the next morning.

He did that for three years until her death in 2005."



With "Martha Jean" behind them, nine of the Doolittle Raiders and three honorary guests pose with WWII re-enactors dressed in period clothing.

So now, out of the original 80, only four Raiders remain:

Dick Cole (Doolittle's co-pilot on the Tokyo raid),

Robert Hite, Edward Saylor, and David Thatcher. All are in their 90s.

They have decided that there are too few of them for the public reunions to continue.

The events in Fort Walton Beach marked the end. It has come full circle;

Florida's nearby Eglin Field was where the Raiders trained in secrecy for the Tokyo mission.

The town planned to do all it can to honor the men: a six-day celebration of their valor,

including luncheons, a dinner, and a parade.



Do the men ever wonder if those of us for whom they helped save the country

have tended to it in a way that is worthy of their sacrifice?

They don't talk about that, at least not around other people.

But if you find yourself near Fort Walton Beach this week,

and if you should encounter any of the Raiders,

you might want to offer them a word of thanks.

I can tell you from firsthand observation that they appreciate hearing that they are remembered.

The men have decided that after this final public reunion they will wait until a later date --

sometime this year -- to get together once more, informally and in absolute privacy.

That is when they will open the bottle of brandy. The years are flowing by too swiftly now; they are not going to wait until there are only two of them.

They will fill the four remaining upturned goblets. And raise them in a toast to those who are gone.



Their 70th Anniversary Photo

PLEASE SEND THIS ON TO EVERYONE IN YOUR ADDRESS BOOK, ESPECIALLY TO THOSE WHO WERE TOO YOUNG TO KNOW ABOUT THESE BRAVE HEROES.

They are all gone now but should never be forgotten.

Ron Sampson

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