

Medal of Honor Series # 3

Edward “Butch” O’Hare

By C.E. Warner 2-17-22

Edward “Butch” O’Hare was a pilot on several aircraft carriers in the Pacific during WWII. He is the first pilot awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor in the Pacific. He received it for defending his carrier by single handedly taking on a squadron of bombers attempting to hit the fleet. He was credited with five kills, becoming the first ace of the Pacific campaign. He went on to command several squadrons until he was made air group commander. He volunteered to be the first to try a night attack on bombers in the Pacific in November of 1943 was lost on the first trial mission. He was never recovered. He was awarded the Navy Cross by the President. The airport in Chicago was renamed O’Hare International Airport in his honor.

Father was a lawyer in Capone’s mob.

Witness against Capone, he was gunned down.

Trade for Butch Naval Academy job?

Regardless, his final record renown.

First, Zero superior to Wildcat.

He teaches methods to survive shortfall,

shows pilots maneuvers in air combat.

Downs five protecting fleet in free for all.

Promoted, new fleet air commander.

Volunteered for risky night fight test.

Three plane flight lost, begins to meander.

Hits enemy and disappears from contest.

All of Chicago mourns their hero lost,

his name on airport forever embossed.