
IMMF * MIDWAY SENTINEL *** IMMF**

FALL 2019

VOL. 26 NO. 98

"DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY"

CRITIQUE OF *MIDWAY* A HOLLYWOOD FEATURE FILM

I saw the Hollywood production of the motion picture *Midway* twice to be certain that my critique was as accurate as it could be with some of the quick-paced events taking place. The acting in the film was very good in its content and execution. This portion of the film gets high marks. However, the film suffers from the number of historically inaccurate statements and events that take place in the film which mislead the audience viewing the film to draw the wrong conclusions from the film. I am not certain whether this was due to inadequate historical technical advice or that the advice was ignored by the producers.

I am going to list the historical inaccuracies in chronological order with an explanation of the true facts as they existed in the saga preceding and during the Battle of Midway.

1. Pearl Harbor Naval intelligence did not know where the Japanese carriers were prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. This is not true, Radio Direction Finders (RDF) at Station H and Station Cast picked up radio signals from the Kido Butai as it was sailing to Pearl Harbor from the Kurile Islands.

2. The Pearl Harbor debacle was claimed in the film to be an U.S. intelligence failure. Inaccurate, declassified intelligence reports released over the past 20 years reveal that enough of the intelligence for the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor was on hand before the attack. However, it was not acted upon by those individuals receiving the intelligence.

3. The white star on the aircraft's wings lacked the solid red ball in its center in the time period preceding the attack on Pearl Harbor. The red ball insertion was not removed from U.S. aircraft until mid- May 1942.

4. Windows were depicted in the film in the Hypo unit. The unit was underground in its location and had no windows.

5. Admiral Halsey's skin disease is diagnosed as "shingles" in the film. Examination of Halsey's medical records by me and published in my book *Victory at Midway* reveals his diagnosis was not "shingles" but neuro-dermatitis due to stress.

6. The dialogue in the film that the *Yamato*, the huge Japanese battleship would be present at Midway was not true. Our naval intelligence was not aware that the *Yamato* was part of the Japanese attack on Midway.

7. The film portrays the Enterprise TBD torpedo bombers attacking the Japanese carriers before Hornet's torpedo bombers. *Hornet's* TBD-1s attacked the Japanese carriers at about 0918 and *Enterprise's* TBD-1s attacked at 0938.

8. Richard Best and Enterprise receive credit for attacking Japanese carrier *Soryu*. In fact, it was *Yorktown's* SBD dive bombers that attacked *Soryu* at about 1025 on the morning of June 4.

9. There is no mention of *Yorktown's* dive bombers in the description of the Battle of Midway. Eliminating *Yorktown's* role in the battle not only did not credit *Yorktown's* with its role in the success of the battle but tarnished the concept which played a major role in the battle, that is, that it was by pure coincidence that Enterprise's aircraft reached the Kido Butai at the exact time that *Yorktown's* aircraft did, resulting in an coordinated/uncoordinated U.S. attack on the Japanese carriers. It was this good fortunate that contributed to the successful destruction of three Japanese carriers that morning.

10. Bruno Gaido alone was thrown overboard and drowned by the Japanese. In reality, both Ensign Frank O'Flaherty were thrown overboard together and drowned.

11. Richard Best was discharged from the U.S. Navy because of the caustic effect of the caustic soda on his lungs. In reality, he had developed active tuberculous from the caustic soda and required treatment.

It is unfortunate that these errors were not addressed before the film's release for they could have been corrected without disturbing the script or length of the film's showing, thus making its production a great film.

IMMF's Midway Documentary Presented to Sarasota Film Festival

The IMMF's documentary film entitled *Against All Odds* has been submitted to the Sarasota Film Festival Committee for acceptance into the Sarasota film festival which is to be held in the early spring, 2020. The film can be seen on our web site: www.immf-midway.com under documentary film. Our film has been professionally produced and directed.

The Manuscript of *Pearl Harbor Declassified: The Truth about the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor* Has Been Sent to McFarland Publishers for Consideration of its Publication

The manuscript entitled *Pearl Harbor Declassified: The Truth about the Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor* has been sent to McFarland Publishers for consideration of its publication. McFarland Publishers is the same entity that published my book *Victory at Midway: The Battle That Changed the Course of World War II*. This manuscript represents its prequel. The manuscript was greatly aided by Bill Dudley, Ph.D., who wrote its foreword and assisted greatly in its editing. Thomas Kimmel, Jr., former FBI agent and grandson of Admiral Husband Kimmel, USN, Commander in-Chief, Pacific Fleet at the time of the attack, gave great assistance in supplying me with declassified material for the writing of the manuscript. Details will follow in the next issue of the newsletter.

The Glenn Miller Project: President Trump Responds by Letter

The Glenn Miller Project Committee has planned a Glenn Miller fund raising concert featuring the Sarasota Jazz Club Band playing Glenn Miller tunes. The performance will begin at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 25, 2020 at the Glenridge Performing Arts Center. The keynote speaker will be your chairman. We plan to loan an original drum from the Glenn Miller band from the Sarasota County History Center Museum and have it present at the concert. Tickets are \$22.50 and can be obtained from the web site www.gpactix.com or by calling 941-552-5325.

President Trump has responded to my suggestion that Major Glenn Miller be awarded the Medal of Freedom by sending me a letter that he will consider my request. I will notify the Glenn Miller Museum in Colorado and the Miller Museum in Iowa and request that they send letters of support for this request. The letter is enclosed on the last page of this newsletter.

Chris and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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