



DOOLITTLE TOKYO RAIDERS
Congressional Gold Medal

NATIONAL MUSEUM
OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE™



In January 1942,

General Henry "Hap" Arnold chose James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle to lead Special Aviation Project No. 1, a seemingly impossible mission that would change the course of the war with Japan. This mission would be called the "Tokyo Raid."

The surprise strike would be accomplished from the sea, with warplanes launched from a Navy carrier. There were staggering odds against the success. But military commanders concluded that it could be done using medium bombers from the Army Air Forces.

They chose the B-25 bomber, one of America's most famous airplanes of World War II. The B-25 was the only aircraft with the required range, bomb capacity and short take-off distance. The bomber would be modified for the mission.

Crews selected for the mission received three weeks of specialized training. Not one pilot had ever taken off an actual ship. Doolittle would pilot the lead bomber, taking off with the shortest length of deck.

Crews also practiced cross-country and night flying, navigating without radio references or landmarks, low-level bombing and aerial gunnery.

The Navy made preparations for "Task Force Sixteen," whose objective was the success of the Tokyo Raid. The bombers would be launched from the USS *Hornet*, about 450 miles from the Japanese mainland. The Task Force also had two cruisers, eight destroyers and two oilers. Admiral William F. "Bull" Halsey would command the operation from the flagship, the USS *Enterprise*.

An intercepted Japanese message signaled that the enemy had already sighted the ships, and early in the morning on April 18, 1942, the mission began ahead of schedule, about 650 miles off shore.

Bad weather, failing instruments and navigational errors actually

helped the surprise attack. The warplanes arrived at Tokyo from different directions, with no flightpath truly established. The Japanese were bewildered. The raid lasted an hour and a half.

The mission was accomplished and a triumph. Several B-25s were fired upon; one was hit but not brought down. All aircraft escaped the mainland under their own power.

With a storm blocking the horizon over China, a thick fog prevented the remaining aircraft from landing safely. In total darkness, 11 of the crews bailed out. Four of the crews crash-landed. One crew landed safely in the Soviet Union.

Two Raiders lost their lives when their B-25 ditched off the coast of China. Eight Raiders were captured by the Japanese. After a mock trial, three unfortunate Raiders were executed. Another Raider died in prison. The remaining four Raiders spent 40 months as prisoners of war until their release after the Japanese surrendered.

Following the Tokyo Raid, most of the surviving Raiders found their way back into action. Before the war's end, 12 more Raiders died, 10 killed in action.

The Doolittle Raid of April 18, 1942, forced the Japanese to recall combat forces for home defense, raised fears among the Japanese civilians, and most importantly, boosted morale among Americans and our Allies abroad.



"Our purpose was to give the folks at home the first good news that we'd had in World War II."

-General James H. "Jimmy" Doolittle

16 Crews || 80 Men

Crew 1:

Lt Gen James H. Doolittle
Col Richard E. Cole
Col Henry A. Potter
Capt Fred A. Braemer
MSgt Paul J. Leonard

Crew 2:

Col Travis Hoover
Maj William N. Fitzhugh
Lt Col Carl R. Wildner
Capt Richard E. Miller
Maj Douglas V. Radney

Crew 3:

Capt Robert M. Gray
Lt Col Jacob E. Manch
Capt Charles J. Ozuk
Lt Aden E. Jones
Cpl Leland D. Faktor

Crew 4:

Brig Gen Everett W. Holstrom
Maj Lucian N. Youngblood
Lt Col Harry C. McCool
Sgt Robert J. Stephens
MSgt Bert M. Jordan

Crew 5:

Maj Gen David M. Jones
Col Rodney R. Wilder
Lt Eugene F. McGurl
Capt Denver V. Truelove
Col Joseph W. Manske

Crew 6:

Lt Dean E. Hallmark
Lt Robert J. Meder
Lt Col Chase J. Nielsen
SSgt William J. Dieter
Sgt Donald E. Fitzmaurice

Crew 7:

Maj Ted W. Lawson
Col Dean Davenport
Capt Charles L. McClure
Lt Robert S. Clever
SSgt David J. Thatcher

Crew 8:

Col Edward J. York
Col Robert G. Emmens
Maj Nolan A. Herndon
MSgt Theodore H. Laban
Lt David W. Pohl

Crew 9:

Lt Col Harold F. Watson
Maj James M. Parker
Maj Thomas C. Griffin
Lt Wayne M. Bissell
Lt Col Eldred V. Scott

Crew 10:

Lt Col Richard O. Joyce
Capt J. Royden Stork
Lt Col Horace E. Crouch
SSgt George E. Larkin, Jr
MSgt Edwin W. Horton, Jr.

Crew 11:

Col C. Ross Greening
Lt Kenneth E. Reddy
Lt Col Frank A. Kappeler
Lt William L. Birch
SSgt Melvin J. Gardner

Crew 12:

Col William M. Bower
Lt Col Thadd H. Blanton
Lt Col William R. Pound, Jr.
Maj Waldo J. Bither
SSgt Omer A. Duquette

Crew 13:

Lt Col Edgar E. McElroy
Brig Gen Richard A. Knobloch
Lt Col Clayton J. Campbell
MSgt Robert C. Bourgeois
MSgt Adam R. Williams

Crew 14:

Brig Gen John A. Hilger
Col Jack A. Sims
Col James H. Macia, Jr.
Maj Jacob Eierman
MSgt Edwin V. Bain

Crew 15:

Capt Donald G. Smith
Maj Griffith P. Williams
Maj Howard A. Sessler
Maj Thomas R. White
Lt Col Edward J. Saylor

Crew 16:

Capt George Barr
Lt William G. Farrow
Sgt Harold A. Spatz
Lt Col Robert L. Hite
SSgt Jacob D. DeShazer

REPRESENTING



Lt Col Richard E. Cole

Co-Pilot, Crew 1

Born September 7, 1915, in Dayton, Ohio

Enlisted on November 22, 1940

and commissioned in July 1941

Decorations include Distinguished Flying
Cross with 2 Oak Leaf Clusters, Air Force
Commendation Medal and Chinese Army,
Navy and Air Corps Medal, Class A, 1st Grade

THE 80



SSgt David J. Thatcher

Engineer-Gunner, Crew 7

Born on July 31, 1921, in Bridger, Montana

Enlisted on December 3, 1940

Decorations include Silver Star, Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters and Chinese Army, Navy and Air Corps Medal, Class A, 1st Grade



When the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders received the Congressional Gold Medal, they joined a select group of patriots, artists, athletes, explorers, and scientists whom Congress has chosen for its highest civilian honor as an expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions.

George Washington received the first Congressional Gold Medal when it was approved by the Continental Congress in 1776. Since then, there have been 158 more awards presented. President Zachary Taylor was honored with the award a record three times.

Other World War II era-groups that have been honored include the Navajo Code Talkers (2000), the Tuskegee Airmen (2006), Women Airforce Service Pilots (2009), and the First Special Service Force, World War II (2013).

Important U.S. Air Force figures receiving the award include Brig Gen Billy Mitchell (1946) and Lt Gen Ira Eaker (1978).

Other notable aviation honorees include Orville and Wilbur Wright (1909); Charles Lindbergh (1928); the First Successful Trans-Atlantic Flight team (1929); Howard Hughes (1939); and astronauts Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn Jr. (2009).

Congressional Gold Medal Recipients

George Washington	Mar. 25, 1776
Major General Horatio Gates	Nov. 4, 1777
Major General Anthony Wayne	July 26, 1779
Major Henry Lee	Sept. 24, 1779
Brigadier General Daniel Morgan	Mar. 9, 1781
Major General Nathanael Greene	Oct. 29, 1781
John Paul Jones	Oct. 16, 1787
Captain Thomas Truxtun	Mar. 29, 1800
Commodore Edward Preble	Mar. 3, 1805
Captain Isaac Hull, Captain Stephen Decatur, and Captain Jacob Jones	Jan. 29, 1813
Captain William Bainbridge	Mar. 3, 1813
Captain Oliver Hazard Perry and Captain Jesse D. Elliott	Jan. 6, 1814
Lieutenant William Burrows and Lieutenant Edward R. McCall	Jan. 6, 1814
Captain James Lawrence	Jan. 11, 1814
Captain Thomas MacDonough, Captain Robert Henly and Lieutenant Stephen Cassin	Oct. 20, 1814
Captain Lewis Warrington	Oct. 21, 1814
Captain Johnson Blakely	Nov. 3, 1814
Major General Jacob Brown	Nov. 3, 1814
Major General Winfield Scott	Nov. 3, 1814
Brigadier General Eleazar W. Ripley, Brigadier General James Miller and Major General Peter B. Porter	Nov. 3, 1814
Major General Edmund P. Gaines	Nov. 3, 1814
Major General Alexander Macomb	Nov. 3, 1814
Major General Andrew Jackson	Feb. 27, 1815
Captain Charles Stewart	Feb. 22, 1816
Captain James Biddle	Feb. 22, 1816
Major General William Henry Harrison and Governor Isaac Shelby	Apr. 4, 1818
Colonel George Croghan	Feb. 13, 1835
Major General Zachary Taylor	July 16, 1846; Mar. 2, 1847; May 9, 1848
Rescuers of the Officers and Crew of the U.S. Brig <i>Somers</i>	Mar. 3, 1847
Major General Winfield Scot	Mar. 9, 1848
Commander Duncan N. Ingraham	Aug. 4, 1854
Major General Ulysses S. Grant	Dec. 17, 1863
Cornelius Vanderbilt	Jan. 28, 1864
Captain Creighton, Captain Low, and Captain Stouffer	July 26, 1866
Cyrus W. Field	Mar. 2, 1867
George Peabody	Mar. 16, 1867
George F. Robinson	Mar. 1, 1871
Captain Jared S. Crandall and Others	Feb. 24, 1873
John Horn, Jr.	June 20, 1874; Apr. 28, 1904
John F. Slater	Feb. 5, 1883
Joseph Francis	Aug. 27, 1888
Chief Engineer George Wallace Melville and Others	Sept. 30, 1890
First Lieutenant Frank H. Newcomb	May 3, 1900
First Lieutenant David H. Jarvis, Second Lieutenant Ellsworth P. Bertholf, and Dr. Samuel J. Call	June 28, 1902
Wright Brothers	Mar. 4, 1909
Captain Arthur Henry Rostron	July 6, 1912
Captain Paul H. Kreibohm and Others	Mar. 19, 1914
Domicio da Gama, Romulo S. Naon, and Eduardo Suarez	Mar. 4, 1915
Charles A. Lindbergh	May 4, 1928
Lincoln Ellsworth, Roald Amundsen, and Umberto Nobile	May 29, 1928
Thomas A. Edison	May 29, 1928
First Successful Trans-Atlantic Flight	Feb. 9, 1929
Major Walter Reed and Associates for Yellow Fever	Feb. 28, 1929

Experimentations in Cuba	Feb. 28, 1929	General Colin Powell	April 23, 1991
Officers and Men of the Byrd Antarctic Expedition	May 23, 1930	Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson	Nov. 2, 1994
Lincoln Ellsworth	June 16, 1936	Ruth and Billy Graham	Feb. 13, 1996
George M. Cohan	June 29, 1936	Francis Albert "Frank" Sinatra	May 14, 1997
Mrs. Richard Aldrich and Anna Bouligny	June 20, 1938	Mother Teresa of Calcutta	June 2, 1997
Howard Hughes	Aug. 7, 1939	Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew	Oct. 6, 1997
Reverend Francis X. Quinn	Aug. 10, 1939	Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela	July 29, 1998
William Sinnott	June 15, 1940	Little Rock Nine	Oct. 21, 1998
Roland Boucher	Jan. 20, 1942	Gerald R. and Betty Ford	Oct. 21, 1998
George Catlett Marshall, General of the Army, and Fleet Admiral Ernest Joseph King	Mar. 22, 1946	Rosa Parks	May 4, 1999
John J. Pershing, General of the Armies of the United States	Aug. 7, 1946	Theodore M. Hesburgh	Dec. 9, 1999
Brigadier General William Mitchwell	Aug. 8, 1946	John Cardinal O'Connor	Mar. 3, 2000
Vice President Alben W. Barkley	Aug. 12, 1949	Charles M. Schulz	June 20, 2000
Irving Berlin	July 16, 1954	Pope John Paul II	July 27, 2000
Doctor Jonas E. Salk	Aug. 9, 1955	Ronald and Nancy Reagan	July 27, 2000
Surviving Veterans of the War Between the States	July 18, 1956	Navajo Code Talkers	Dec. 21, 2000
Rear Admiral Hyman George Rickover	Aug. 28, 1958	General Henry H. Shelton	Jan. 16, 2002
Doctor Robert H. Goddard	Sept. 16, 1959	Prime Minister Tony Blair of the United Kingdom	July 17, 2003
Robert Frost	Sept. 13, 1960	Jackie Roosevelt Robinson	Oct. 23, 2003
Doctor Thomas Anthony Dooley III	May 27, 1961	Dr. Dorothy Height	Dec. 6, 2003
Bob Hope	June 8, 1962	Reverend Joseph A. DeLaine, Harry and Eliza Briggs, and Levi Pearson	Dec. 15, 2003
Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House Representatives	Sept. 26, 1962	Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and Coretta Scott King	Oct. 25, 2004
Douglas MacArthur, General of the Army	Oct. 9, 1962	The Tuskegee Airmen	Apr. 11, 2006
Walt Disney	May 24, 1968	Tenzin Gyatso, the Fourteenth Dalai Lama	Sept. 27, 2006
Winston Churchill	May 7, 1969	Byron Nelson	Oct. 16, 2006
Roberto Walker Clemente	May 14, 1973	Dr. Norman E. Borlaug	Dec. 14, 2006
Marian Anderson	Mar. 8, 1977	Michael Ellis DeBakey, M.D.	Oct. 10, 2007
Lieutenant General Ira C. Eaker	Oct. 10, 1978	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi	May 6, 2008
Robert F. Kennedy	Nov. 1, 1978	Constantino Brumidi	July 1, 2008
John Wayne	May 26, 1979	Edward William Brooke III	July 1, 2008
Ben Abruzzo, Maxie Anderson, and Larry Newman	June 13, 1979	Native American Code Talkers	Oct. 15, 2008
Hubert H. Humphrey	June 13, 1979	Women Airforce Service Pilots of World War II (WASPs)	July 1, 2009
American Red Cross	Dec. 12, 1979	Neil A. Armstrong, Edwin E. "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr., Michael Collins, and John Herschel Glenn, Jr.	Aug. 7, 2009
Ambassador Kenneth Taylor	Mar. 6, 1980	Arnold Palmer	Sept. 30, 2009
Simon Wiesenthal	Mar. 17, 1980	Dr. Muhammad Yunus	Oct. 5, 2010
1980 United States Summer Olympic Team	July 8, 1980	100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service, United States Army	Oct. 5, 2010
Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands	Mar. 22, 1982	Montford Point Marines	Nov. 11, 2011
Admiral Hyman George Rickover	June 23, 1982	The Fall Heroes Act: Honoring the Men and Women who Perished as the result of the Terrorist Acts on the United States on September 11, 2001	Dec. 23, 2011
Fred Waring	Aug. 26, 1982	Raoul Wallenberg	July 26, 2012
Joe Louis	Aug. 26, 1982	Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley	May 24, 2013
Louis L'Amour	Aug. 26, 1982	The First Special Service Force, World War II	July 12, 2013
Leo J. Ryan	Nov. 18, 1983	American Fighter Aces	May 23, 2014
Danny Thomas	Nov. 29, 1983	World War II remembers of the 17th Bombardment Group known as "Doolittle Tokyo Raiders"	May 23, 2014
Harry S. Truman	May 8, 1984	World War II members of the Civil Air Patrol	June 9, 2014
Lady Bird Johnson	May 8, 1984	President Shimon Peres	June 9, 2014
Elie Wiesel	May 8, 1984	Monuments, Fine Arts, and Archives Section under the Allied Armies (Monuments Men)	June 9, 2014
Roy Wilkins	May 17, 1984	65th Infantry Regiment, United States Army, known as the Borinqueneers	June 10, 2014
George and Ira Gershwin	Aug. 9, 1985	Selma to Montgomery marchers	Mar. 7, 2015
Anatoly and Avital Shcharansky	May 13, 1986	Jack Nicklaus	Mar. 24, 2015
Harry Chapin	May 20, 1986		
Aaron Copland	Sept. 23, 1986		
Mary Lasker	Dec. 24, 1987		
Jesse Owens	Sept. 20, 1988		
Andrew Wyeth	Nov. 9, 1988		
Laurence Spelman Rockefeller	May 17, 1990		
General Matthew B. Ridgeway	Nov. 5, 1990		
General H. Norman Schwarzkopf	Apr. 23, 1991		

Public Law 113–106
113th Congress

An Act

May 23, 2014
[H.R. 1209]

To award a Congressional Gold Medal to the World War II members of the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders”, for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo.

31 USC 5111
note.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) on April 18, 1942, the brave men of the 17th Bombardment Group (Medium) became known as the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders” for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States in conducting the bombings of Tokyo;

(2) 80 brave American aircraft crewmen, led by Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, volunteered for an “extremely hazardous mission”, without knowing the target, location, or assignment, and willingly put their lives in harm’s way, risking death, capture, and torture;

(3) the conduct of medium bomber operations from a Navy aircraft carrier under combat conditions had never before been attempted;

(4) after the discovery of the USS Hornet by Japanese picket ships 170 miles further away from the prearranged launch point, the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders proceeded to take off 670 miles from the coast of Japan;

(5) by launching more than 100 miles beyond the distance considered to be minimally safe for the mission, the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders deliberately accepted the risk that the B–25s might not have enough fuel to reach the designated air-fields in China on return;

(6) the additional launch distance greatly increased the risk of crash landing in Japanese occupied China, exposing the crews to higher probability of death, injury, or capture;

(7) because of that deliberate choice, after bombing their targets in Japan, low on fuel and in setting night and deteriorating weather, none of the 16 airplanes reached the prearranged Chinese airfields;

(8) of the 80 Doolittle Tokyo Raiders who launched on the raid, 8 were captured, 2 died in the crash, and 70 returned to the United States;

(9) of the 8 captured Doolittle Tokyo Raiders, 3 were executed and 1 died of disease; and

(10) there were only 5 surviving members of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders as of February 2013.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**(a) AWARD.—**

(1) **AUTHORIZED.**—The President pro tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall make appropriate arrangements for the award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in honor of the World War II members of the 17th Bombardment Group (Medium) who became known as the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders”, in recognition of their military service during World War II.

(2) **DESIGN AND STRIKING.**—For the purposes of the award referred to in paragraph (1), the Secretary of the Treasury shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(3) NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE.—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Following the award of the gold medal referred to in paragraph (1) in honor of the World War II members of the 17th Bombardment Group (Medium), who became known as the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders”, the gold medal shall be given to the National Museum of the United States Air Force, where it shall be available for display with the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders Goblets, as appropriate, and made available for research.

(B) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the National Museum of the United States Air Force should make the gold medal received under this Act available for display elsewhere, particularly at other locations and events associated with the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders.

(b) **DUPLICATE MEDALS.**—Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under this Act, at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

(c) **NATIONAL MEDALS.**—Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

Approved May 23, 2014.

Senator Sherrod Brown OHIO introduced S.381 on 02/26/13
Congressman Pete Olson TEXAS introduced HR.1209 on 03/15/13
Co-sponsors of legislation awarding the
Congressional Gold Medal to The Doolittle Tokyo Raiders include:

Alabama – Sens. Jeff Sessions and Richard Shelby and Reps. Terri Sewell, Mo Brooks, Martha Roby, Spencer Bachus

Alaska – Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich and Rep. Don Young

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Vermont – Sen. Bernard Sanders and Rep. Peter Welch

Virginia – Sen. Timothy Kaine and Reps. James "Jim" Moran, Randy Forbes, Donna Christensen, Robert Wittman, Morgan Griffith, Gerald Connolly, Frank Wolf, Robert Scott, Robert Hurt, Bob Goodlatte

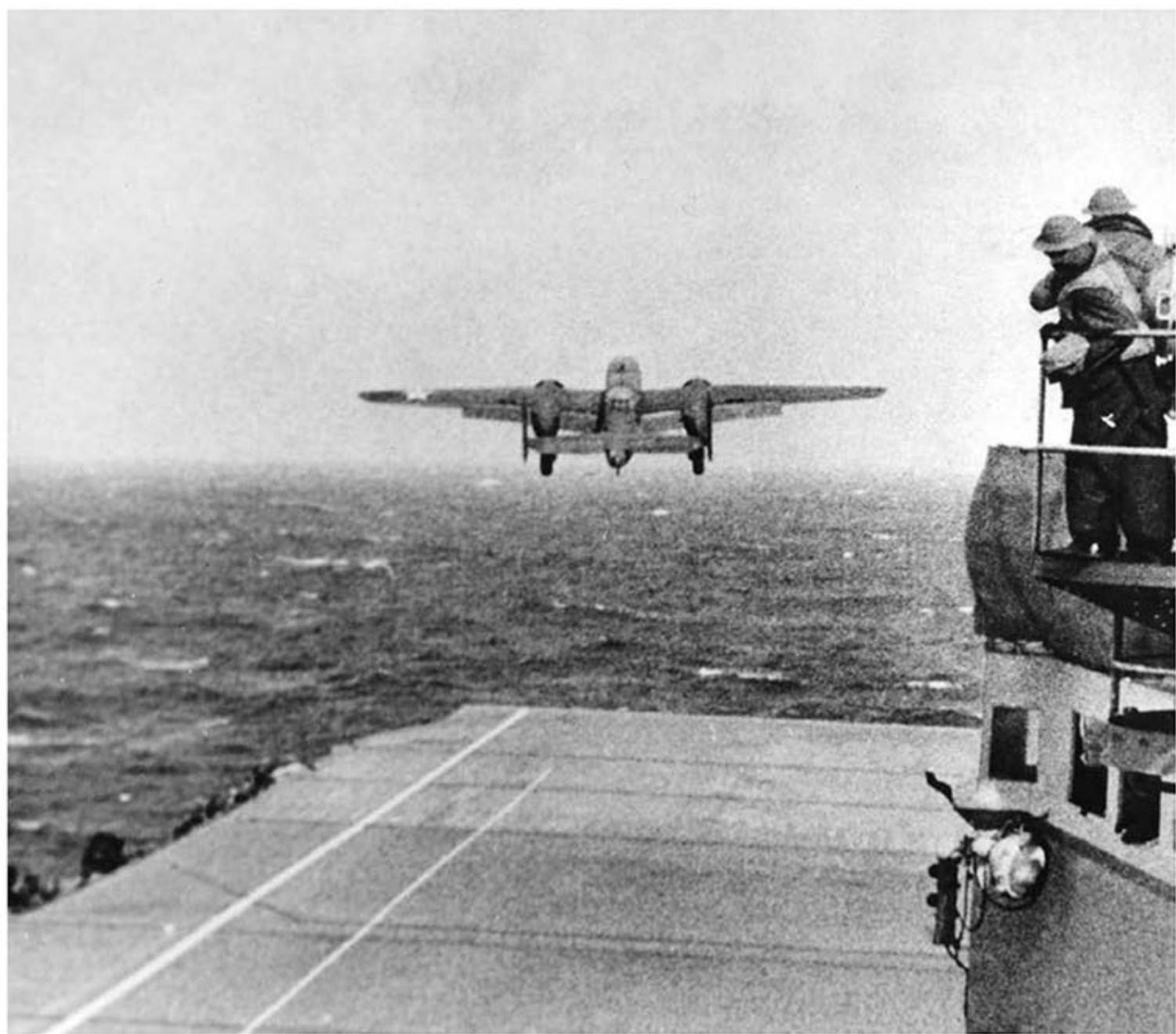
Virgin Islands – Rep. Donna Christensen

Washington – Sens. Maria Cantwell and Patty Murray and Reps. Cathy McMorris Rodgers, David Reichert, Denny Heck, Derek Kilmer, Rick Larsen, Jim McDermott, Adam Smith, Suzan DelBene, Doc Hastings, Jaime Herrera Beutler

West Virginia – Sens. John "Jay" Rockefeller and Joe Manchin and Reps. David McKinley, Nick Rahall, Shelley Capito

Wisconsin – Sen. Tammy Baldwin and Rep. Ron Kind

Wyoming – Sens. John Barrasso and Michael Enzi and Rep. Cynthia Lummis



DOOLITTLE TOKYO RAIDERS *Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony*

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