

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. RES. 418

Commending the 80 brave men who became known as the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders” for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States during the bombing of Tokyo and 5 other targets on the island of Honshu on April 18, 1942, during the Second World War.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 16, 2012

Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. INOUE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. BAUCUS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

RESOLUTION

Commending the 80 brave men who became known as the “Doolittle Tokyo Raiders” for outstanding heroism, valor, skill, and service to the United States during the bombing of Tokyo and 5 other targets on the island of Honshu on April 18, 1942, during the Second World War.

Whereas 80 brave American airmen 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;

Whereas the mission was the first offensive action by the United States military following the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941;

Whereas the Doolittle Raid represented the first time in which the Army Air Corps and the Navy collaborated in a tactical mission by flying 16 Army B-25 medium bombers off of the USS Hornet;

Whereas the flying of bombers from a Navy carrier had never been done before, making the mission extremely hazardous from the very start;

Whereas after encountering Japanese picket ships 170 miles from the prearranged launch point, the Raiders, led by Lieutenant Colonel James Doolittle, proceeded to launch 650 miles from the target of Tokyo;

Whereas by launching more than 170 miles early the Raiders deliberately accepted the risk that the B-25s might not have enough fuel to make it beyond the Japanese lines in occupied China;

Whereas the additional risk virtually sealed the fate of the Raiders to crash land in China or on the home islands of Japan, subjecting them to imprisonment, torture, or death;

Whereas because of that deliberate choice, after hitting their military and industrial targets in Tokyo and five other cities on the island of Honshu, low on fuel and in setting night and deteriorating weather, none of the 16 airplanes reached the prearranged Chinese airfields;

Whereas the total distance traveled averaged 2,250 nautical miles over a period of 13 hours is the longest combat mission ever flown in a B-25 Mitchell bomber;

Whereas of the eight Raiders who were captured, three were executed, one died of disease, and four came home; and
 Whereas, the Doolittle Raid led the fight for the eventual victory of the United States in the Second World War: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2 (1) commends the 5 living members and 80
 3 original members of the Doolittle Tokyo Raiders for
 4 their participation in the Tokyo bombing raid of
 5 April 18, 1942;

6 (2) recognizes the valor, skill, and courage of
 7 the Raiders that proved invaluable to the eventual
 8 defeat of Japan during the Second World War; and

9 (3) acknowledges that the actions of the Raid-
 10 ers helped to forge an enduring example of heroism
 11 in the face of uncertainty for the Army Air Corps
 12 of the Second World War, the future of the Air
 13 Force, and the United States as a whole.

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