

God's Special Providence in the Battle of Midway



June 4-7, 1942

God's Special Providence in the Battle of Midway



Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941

U.S. Carriers still at Sea
Oil Farms and Repair Facilities Not Destroyed

God's Special Providence in the Battle of Midway



America had competent, determined, and aggressive leaders

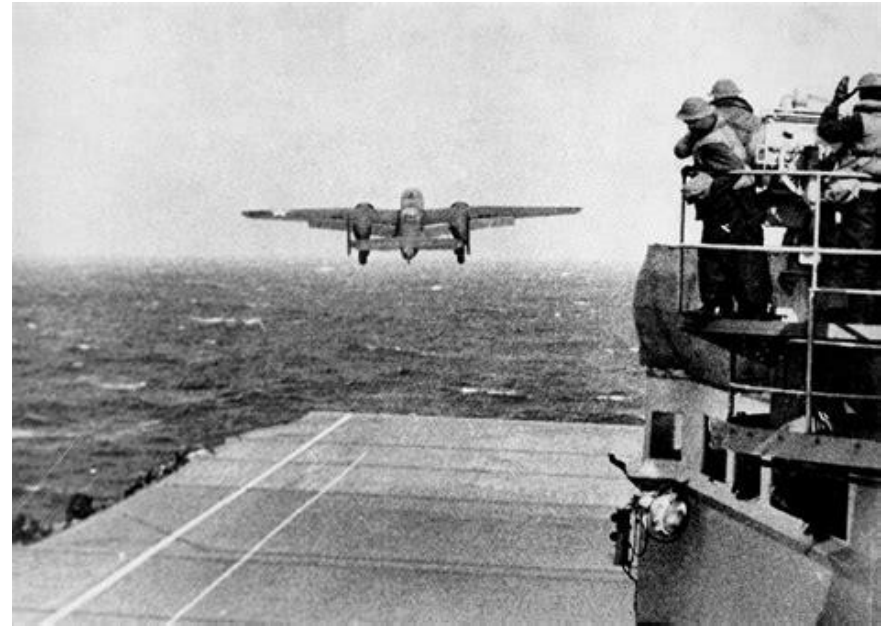
President Franklin Roosevelt

Admiral Ernest King

Admiral Chester Nimitz

God's Special Providence in the Battle of Midway

Photo # NH 53420 B-25Bs take off from USS Hornet to attack Japan, 18 April 1942



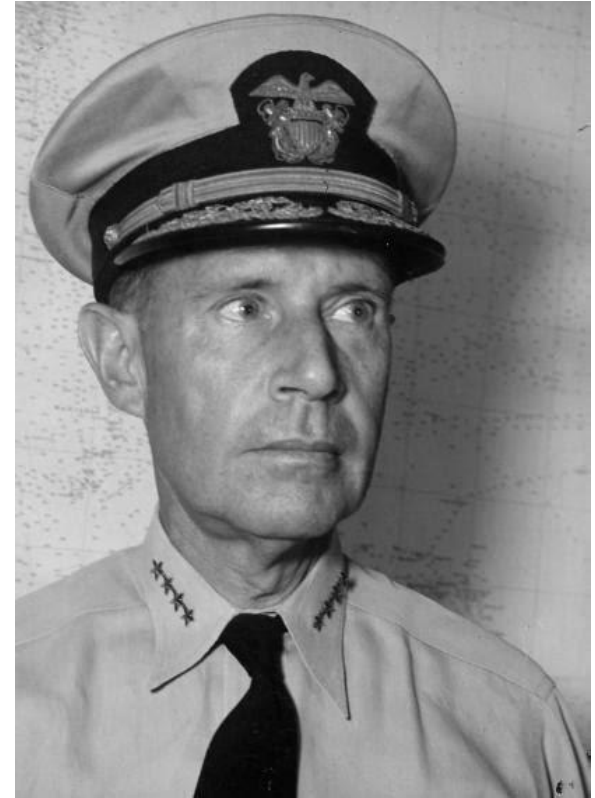
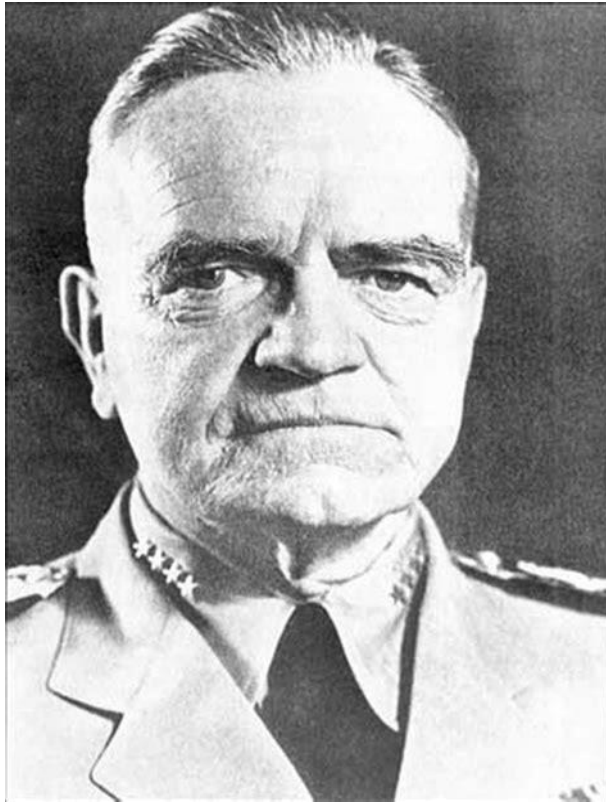
The Doolittle Raid to bomb Japan
April 18, 1942

God's Special Providence in the Battle of Midway



The Doolittle Raid, a few planes of which flew directly over the Japanese Emperor's palace in Tokyo, greatly embarrasses Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, so he speeds up preparations for the invasion of Midway. He now diverts 2 of his 6 aircraft carriers north to the Aleutian Islands.

God's Special Providence in the Battle of Midway



Admiral William "Bull" Halsey replaced by Admiral Richard Spruance as Task Force 16 commander, due to fatigue and illness.

God's Special Providence in the Battle of Midway



Naval Officer Joseph Rochefort, Japanese linguist and trained cryptanalyst, breaks the Japanese naval code in early 1942. Underwater cable from Hawaii to Midway used to confirm.

God's Special Providence in the Battle of Midway



The U.S. naval forces, sailing towards Midway earlier than expected, avoid the Japanese picket line of submarines set up a few days afterwards.

God's Special Providence in the Battle of Midway



Japanese scout plane discovers U.S. Task Force, but fails to report accompanying carrier.

God's Special Providence in the Battle of Midway



When Wade McClusky could not find the Japanese carriers where he expected them, and with his air group's fuel running dangerously low, he began a box search and on the second leg spotted the Japanese destroyer *Arashi* steaming north. Surmising that *Arashi* must be following the main fleet, McClusky ordered a change in course in the same direction as *Arashi*. This led him directly to the enemy carriers.

God's Special Providence in the Battle of Midway



To use the phrase that an admiral applied to another Pacific WW2 battle, the American victory at Midway was due to “the definite partiality of Almighty God”. From Midway onward, the Japanese began the downward spiral that ended with the atomic bombs and unconditional surrender in August 1945.



God's Special Providence in the Battle of Midway

Jacob DeShazer

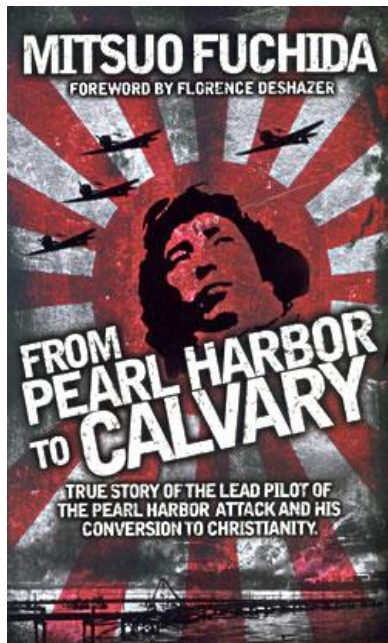
- Jacob DeShazer was the bombardier of B-25 No.16 of the Doolittle Raiders.
- After bombing Tokyo, the crew had to parachute into a Japanese-controlled part of China.
- DeShazer was in several POW camps for 40 months-34 of the months in solitary confinement.
- He was beaten and malnourished; three members of his crew died of illness, one was executed.
- During early 1945, he read the Bible and accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
- He resolved to someday bring the message of salvation to Japan.
- After the war was over, DeShazer attended Seattle Pacific College.
- He returned to Japan to preach the gospel. Eventually, he established a church in Nagoya, the very city he had bombed years before.

God's Special Providence in the Battle of Midway



Commander Mitsuo Fuchida

- Led Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor.
- Had an emergency appendectomy just before Midway while on the carrier Kagi.
- Left sickbay and went to the bridge just before a US bomb killed everyone below decks.
- Broke both ankles while climbing down from the burning bridge to deck.
- Picked up by two enlisted men and carried to the boat for evacuation with Admiral Nagumo.
- In August 1945, he was ordered to inspect the city of Hiroshima after the atomic bomb was dropped—he was the only one of his party not to die from radiation poisoning.



God's Special Providence in the Battle of Midway

- In Tokyo in 1948, a Western man handed Fuchida a pamphlet written by Jacob DeShazer entitled, *I Was A Prisoner In Japan*.
- After reading the pamphlet, Fuchida purchased a Bible.
- In April of 1950 Fuchida received Jesus Christ as his Savior.
- The next month he visited DeShazer, and the two former enemies embraced as brothers in Christ.
- Fuchida spent the rest of his life as an evangelist.
- His book, *From Pearl Harbor to Calvary*, recounts his journey to faith.
- In the early 1960's, Fuchida spoke at Calvary Church in Lancaster.