DOOLITTLE RAIDERS

TOUJOURS AU DANGER

CREW FOURTEEN

89th Bomber Squadron

The Hilger Room

U.S. AIR FORCE

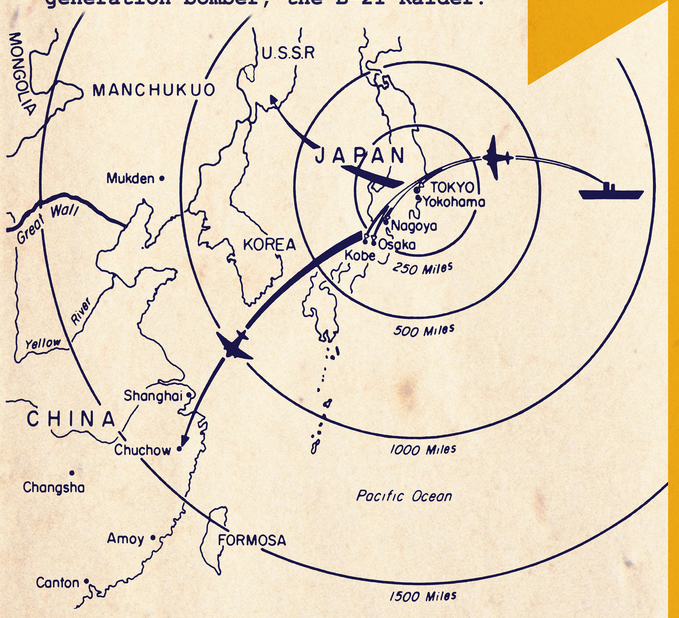
AFLCMC · AFGSC · AFRCO

B-21 RAIDER

BOLD · INNOVATIVE · COURAGEOUS

On April 18, 1942, 80 men and 16 B-25 Mitchell medium bombers set off on what some said was an impossible mission, to change the course of World War II. The actions of these 80 volunteers, led by Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle, were instrumental in shifting momentum in the Pacific theater and setting the stage for victory at the Battle of Midway.

These men, dubbed the Doolittle Raiders, launched 16 B-25s off the flight deck of the USS Hornet, despite the plane not being designed for carrier operations. The raid acted as a catalyst to many future innovations in U.S. air superiority from land or sea. That bold, innovative and courageous spirit of the Doolittle Raiders has been the inspiration behind the name of America's next generation bomber, the B-21 Raider.



TAIL NUMBER: 40-2297 → **TARGET:** Nagoya

Major Hilger observed a Japanese patrol plane within hours of his takeoff, but the enemy apparently never saw the incoming bomber. The B-25 continued west without incident to drop bombs on a military barracks at Nagoya Castle and the Mitsubishi Aircraft Plant south of Nagoya. The effectiveness of their aim was evident as the airplane continued westward. More than 30 miles from one of their targets, they could still see a plume of smoke rising a mile into the sky. The crew safely bailed out of their bomber inside China, and were able to reach Chuhsien within two days. Part of the crew remained in Indo-China and others went on to serve in Europe.

Pilot: Maj. John Hilger (1909-1982)
Co-Pilot: Lt. Jack Sims (1919-2007)
Navigator: Lt. James Macia (1916-2009)
Radio Gunner: Staff Sgt. Edwin Bain (1917-1943)
Engineer Gunner: Staff Sgt. Jacob Eierman (1913-1994)

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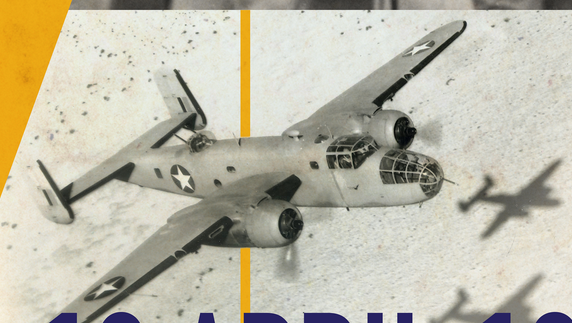

18 APRIL 1942

B-25 MITCHELL

USS HORNET

WORLD WAR II