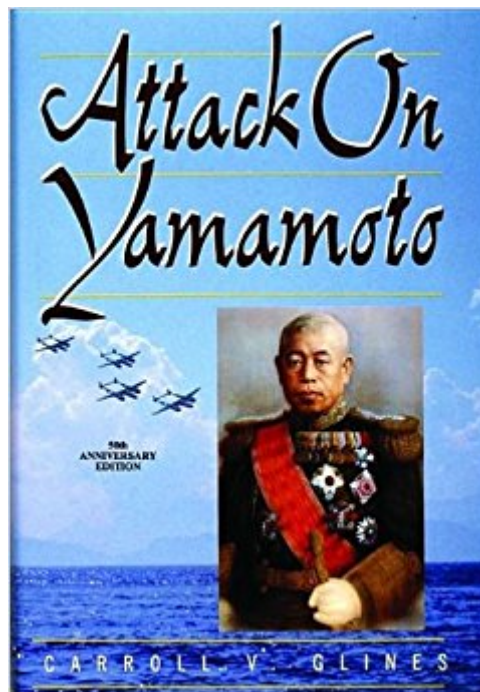


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Attack On Yamamoto:



Synopsis

Here is the dramatic story of the American mission to shoot Japan's greatest admiral out of the sky, told by the award-winning author of the Doolittle Raid. On April 18, 1943, against overwhelming odds, Yamamoto's plane was shot down. Following the mission, a controversy arose: Which pilot actually shot down Yamamoto's plane? C.V. Glines turns his formidable research skills on this extraordinary tale of adventure and detection. This updated edition contains the official 1993 Air Force decision on this controversy.

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Customer Reviews

Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander of the Japanese navy and mastermind of the attack on Pearl Harbor, was killed on April 18, 1943, in an aerial ambush by a squadron of U.S. Army P-38s based on Guadalcanal. Glines (*The Doolittle Raid*) describes how the trap was set after U.S. naval intelligence discovered that Yamamoto would be flying between New Guinea and Bougainville on that date, and describes in detail how it was sprung. For nearly half a century a controversy has raged over which P-38 pilot deserves credit for the kill. Until now the leading contender has been Thomas G. Lanphier Jr., who until his death in 1987 was persistent in calling attention to himself as "the man who got Yamamoto." Glines here painstakingly collects accounts from eyewitnesses (including the testimony of one of the Japanese escort pilots) plus evidence at the crash site, and concludes that the credit belongs to Lanphier's wingman, Rex T. Barber. All this makes for engrossing reading, but the most memorable element is Glines's portrait of Lanphier, a feverishly self-glorifying character whose behavior was rooted in his postwar political ambitions. Photos.

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On April 18, 1943, a flight of Army P-38 fighter planes intercepted and shot down the bomber carrying Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, commander in chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet. This book is less a popular reprise of the event than an attempt to settle the controversy over which of two American pilots actually killed the enemy warlord. Glines, the author of other aviation dramas (e.g., *The Doolittle Raid*, LJ 10/15/88; *Doolittle's Tokyo Raiders*, 1981), is not impartial about the matter. This is a lively and well-researched account, but frequently repetitious. Still, it is the best since Davis Burke's *Get Yamamoto* (Random, 1969. o.p.). For general collections only.- Raymond L. Puffer, U.S. Air Force History Prog., Los Angeles

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Overall, this is a decent book, but suffers from a few glaring flaws. The statement that the Hammelburgs raid, the Lis Banos raid and the Cabatuan raid "all in 1944," is wrong. Those raids took place in early 1945. Plus, Yamamoto flew his flag on the battleship "Musashi", which Flies repeatedly called the "Musahi". The author refers to the Nazionale atrocity at Lidice as retaliation for the assassination of "Reynard" Heydrich, whose first name actually was Reinhard. Finally, Gline states that the Japanese carrier Shokaku was sunk at the Battle of the Coral Sea, when in fact it was the light carrier Soho that was sunk. The Shokaku was sunk at the Battle of the Philippine Sea in 1944. These issues are fairly minor, but they do detract from the quality of the book.

In looking for books on the P-38 Lighting, I came across this one. Even though the controversy still continues on "Who shot Yamamot down", It was accomplished in a "Lighting".

The short book delves into the attempt to kill Admiral Yamamoto while on a flight of Japanese aircraft in the South Pacific during WWII in the Spring of 1943. The book gives very good detail on the preflight planning by the US Marine Corp who was given the task because it was felt that the P38 Lightning was the only plane that could make the long trip from Guadalcanal. Great planning and help came from many sources shows the teamwork needed to make the plan work to perfection. Perhaps more effort should be given to show the total lack of security. It seemed that everyone on the Island knew what was going on and the task to suppress after the fact by leadership of the Navy was too late. Effort was made to show that the Navy made poor effort to

debrief pilots after each mission. This would later prove that a great effort by one self promoting pilot with political aspirations to be President was allowed to set the record for all. No other pilot was interviewed after the flight. The Navy should have done a more complete job with debriefing flights after the fact. This is especially true after such an important effort was made on this day.

This book does a very good job of covering the mission, as well as exposing how Tom Lanphier tried to get credit for shooting down Yamamota when in fact he did not. Lanphier almost caused a major security breach by going around the country while the war was still going on, telling people his mission knew they were after Yamamota, which could have tipped off the Japanese that their codes were broken. Fortunately, the Japanese never got this information. I highly recommend this book because of the facts it presents.

Was the U.S.A.A.F. attack on the planner of the Pearl Harbor attack a great victory for code-breakers- or a barbaric assassination? 18 April 1943, it was a satisfying P.R. victory. The book quotes from a Retrospective on the attack, held on 16-17 April 1988: 'To turn to the Yamamoto mission as a special operation, it had the basic characteristics of "special ops"--speed, accuracy, and a linkage to technical intelligence systems and psychological warfare. It was not the only special operation carried out by standard forces. There were the Hammelburg Raid in Europe, and the Cabanatuan and Los Banos raids which rescued prisoners of war in the Philippines, all in 1944. As for the matter of precedent, when the British commandos had earlier tried to kill Rommel, unsuccessfully, the Germans treated the prisoners rather straightforwardly, considering Hitler's fury over earlier commando operations. Dr Dawson has pointed out previous practices and values. The view on targeting enemy commanders, however, changed in the twentieth century, partly due to dispersal of armies and fleets in space and time, controlled by webs of communications radiating out from central headquarters....' From an overview by Professor Roger H Beaumont (p.162). What would the difference be if Yamamoto had died on the bridge of a ship in battle after attack by a bomb-carrying P-38? He was not a peace negotiator, or government official, but functioning as a commander who was inspecting military bases. The other issue in the book- who fired the bullets, is drawn out in a 3-D diagram showing the path of the two transports and the intercepting four P-38s. It is logical, given the quick unfolding of the clash, and vain intervention by Zeroes. It sets the record straight.

The attack on Yamamoto is considered to be one of the finest achievements and most fascinating

episodes of World War II. Carroll Glines brings the authoritative and final word on the events leading up to and the subsequent downing of the Admiral's plane over Bougainville Island. This book is a focus on the controversy that has erupted over who officially shot down Yamamoto. Going against what the Official Military Record says about who shot down Yamamoto, Glines, through interviews, letters, reports, testimonies, and expert analysis, brings a balanced approach to the controversy. Glines examines all the evidence, and provides that evidence so the reader may decide for himself who they believe actually shot down Yamamoto, although Glines clearly favors one side of the argument. Attack on Yamamoto also contains useful discussions into the intelligence and code-breaking capabilities of the US during World War II, and it portrays the desperations and absolute necessity of accomplishing this mission and its overall impact on the Japanese Fleet's ability to continue fighting. A killer book, this is a must read for anyone who enjoys history, World War II, and a "sit on the edge of your seat" story.

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