

PROFESSIONAL PILOT



OCTOBER 2016



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Much has been accomplished but hurdles still persist.

David Thatcher, crew member on WWII Doolittle Raid, dies at 95



David Thatcher

David Thatcher, 1 of the last 2 surviving crew members of the WWII Doolittle Raid and a recent inductee to the Living Legends of Aviation, died on June 22 in Missoula MT, a few weeks short of his 95th birthday. The Doolittle Raid, named for its leader, then Lt Col James "Jimmy" Doolittle, was an attack on Japan on Apr 18, 1942 by a fleet of 16 B25 Mitchell bombers launched from the aircraft carrier *USS Hornet*. With the exception of Doolittle and a couple of key officers, Thatcher and the other men who participated in the raid had no idea what they were getting into.

They volunteered for a secret mission which they were told would be highly dangerous and take them out of the country for a few months.

Thatcher was the engineer-gunner aboard a B25 named "The Ruptured Duck." Ted Lawson, the pilot of that airplane, wrote the book *Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo*, an autobiographical account of the raid and the role played by his crew and their airplane. Lawson's book—and the subsequent Hollywood movie based on it—combined to make Thatcher 1 of the best-known of the 80 Doolittle raiders.

After takeoff, Lawson's airplane went on to bomb Tokyo successfully and continued on to China in deteriorating weather that made finding a landing field impossible. Lawson landed on a beach he spotted through the overcast but the landing went badly. All crew members, except Thatcher, were severely injured in the ensuing crash. He helped Lawson and other crew members of The Ruptured Duck reach safety. After this Thatcher was stationed in England and later in Africa before receiving a stateside assignment in California in early 1944.

David Thatcher won a Silver Star for his actions following the crash. After the raid, in addition to the Silver Star, he was awarded Distinguished Flying Cross, the Air Medal with 4 Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Chinese Army, Navy, and Air Corps Medal, Class A, 1st Grade during his military career. □



On 18 April 1942, airmen of the US Army Air Corps carried the Battle of the Pacific to the heart of the Japanese empire with a raid on military targets in Tokyo, Yokohama, Yokosuka, Nagoya and Kobe. This was the result of coordination between the Army Air Corps and the US Navy, which carried the 16 North American B25 bombers aboard the *USS Hornet* to within striking range of the Japanese Islands. Here, a pair of alert escorts follow the *USS Hornet* to protect her cargo. Photo courtesy of USAF.

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(1) Outside-county mail subscriptions stated on form 3541	081	17,725
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(3) Other non-USPS distribution	087	4,386
(4) Other classes mailed USPS	0	0
Total paid and/or requested circulation	168	22,111
Free distribution by mail (samples, complimentary and other free)		
(1) Outside-county as stated on form 3541	865	706
(2) In-county as stated on form 3541	0	0
(3) Other classes mailed USPS	65	64
(4) Free distribution outside the mail (carriers or other means)	350	260
Total free distribution	280	1,030
Total distribution	448	23,141
Copies not distributed	284	339
Total	732	23,480
Percent paid and/or requested circulation	35%	95%

Certified correct and complete September 22, 2016 by Anthony Herrera, General Manager

Jan Barden started API and placed pilots in corporate aircraft cockpits



Jan Barden

For 45 years Janice Barden found, tested and placed in service qualified pilots who today serve as chief pilots and aviation dept mgrs for a great number of business flight departments.

As a professional psychologist, she started Aviation Personnel Intl in 1971 in New Orleans with a view towards not only checking applicant type ratings and flight hours but also giving the candidates psychological testing to make sure they would fit in with the companies looking for pilots to be in their flight services. Her involvement in psychological testing predates API

and goes back more than 60 years. As her API pilot placement service grew, she enlisted her husband Hal into the company and eventually passed the leadership of the firm to her daughter Sheryl Barden, now API's president and CEO in San Francisco.

Jan was named as a Star Performer by *Professional Pilot* magazine, recognized by the 2015 NBAA Leadership Conference as an Aviation Industry Game Changer, named by the Natl Aeronautical Assn as a Wesley McDondald Distinguished Aviation Statesman, was recipient of the NBAA Jack Doswell Award for achievements in support of business aviation, and was appointed by Pres George H W Bush to a Presidential Blue Ribbon Panel to address the problem of pilot and technician shortages in aviation. Long after Hal Barden passed, Jan married Chuck McKinnon, founder of the IBM flight dept and an editorial contributor to *Pro Pilot*. We will all miss Jan Barden. □



Jan & Sheryl Barden