**IMMF \*\*\* MIDWAY SENTINEL \*\*\* IMMF**

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**“DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**NORTHERN MARINER REVIEWS**

**“*VICTORY******AT MIDWAY”***

Northern Mariner is a quarterly peer-reviewed academic journal published by the Canadian Nautical Research Society in association with the North American Society for Oceanic History.

The following is a critique of *Victory at Midway: The Battle That Changed the Course of World War II*. in the Spring of 2018:

“Author James M. D’Angelo brings the Battle of Midway back to life in his book *Victory at Midway: The Battle That Changed the Course of World War II*. This narrative takes a unique look at how decisions made by Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto turned a Japanese advantage in the Pacific theatre into an American victory. D’Angelo applies a counterfactual approach to a chronological series of events to punctuate how specific decisions made by Yamamoto brought the Japanese fleet into a perilous situation. Using a combination of interviews, medical records, films, and official correspondence, D’Angelo draws the reader through events to argue how each decision changed the course of this decisive battle. He then broadly evaluates how the overwhelming American victory at Midway crippled Japanese naval supremacy in the Pacific, allowing the United States to redirect its naval efforts toward European priorities during the Second World War. This book stands as a historical narrative which expertly redefines the value of war games, military intelligence, concentrated force, and timing to the strategic flow of naval success.

D’Angelo’s systemic approach works well in building a comprehensive case detailing how the United States’ tactical advantage defeated Japanese forces in the Pacific. Examining war game outcomes, tactical priorities, and the emerging importance of aircraft carriers over battleships, the author identifies several critical flaws that had a significant impact on the Battle of Midway. The first was Yamamoto’s failure to anticipate an ambush by the United States Navy. This was a result of Japan’s lack of recognition of American technological skill which enabled them to break the Japanese JN-25B transmission code and prioritization of advanced radar technology. Next, the author emphasizes Yamamoto’s failure to apply recommendations resulting from practiced war game scenarios. He then offers a thorough analysis of each weakness, suggesting alternative possible outcomes had Japan made decisions. His conclusion being: failures rather than luck, dictated the outcome of this important battle.

Adding to these miscalculations, the author determines that the island of Midway represented a stationary carriership due to its ability to launch forces during exchanges within this theatre. The author explains the tactical advantages of airpower facilitated by carriers over the traditional battleship attack strategy. During the Second World War, airpower became not just a superior one, compared to the brute force of battleships. For this reason, D’Angelo argues, each carriership lost in battle affected the outcome of engagements.

Additionally, D’Angelo explains the concept of net striking power, which calculates an immediate loss of at least one carrier affecting the party who is attacked first. Yamamoto launched an attack against the island of Midway using all available airpower which produced a defensive vulnerability gap allowing the United States Navy to gain a first-strike advantage as Japanese aircraft were attempting to land on or leave its carriers. Japanese aircraft stored in the hangars of carriers *Akagi and Kaga* with their fuel tanks and fuel lines exposed, were ignited during the battle, causing massive explosions and ultimately sinking both carriers. Eventually, the Japanese fleet at Midway lost all four carriers engaged in this naval encounter including the *Akagi*, *Kaga*, *Soryu* and *Hiryu*. The United States lost one carrier, *Yorktown*.

After outlining the advantages and disadvantages going into the Battle of Midway, D’Angelo guides the reader through events and outcomes by means of the excellent use of interviews. Based on his examination of individual decisions made by military personnel, attempts to evaluate the diverse factors that influenced those decisions, D’Angelo’s disciplined and scientific approach merges with his passion for the subject. His background as a former member of the U.S. Air Force brings a tactical nature to his writing, while his medical background as an oncologist adds a scientific and diagnostic dimension to the dialogue. In addition, the author uses his clinical background to analyze medical issues which influenced personnel movement.

D’Angelo’s lifelong fascination with the Pacific theatre and his establishment of *The*

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*International Midway Memorial Foundation* gave the author continuous exposure to war veterans which contributed a personal touch to this project. The book stands as an excellent resource to readers interested in the War in the Pacific. D’Angelo’s use of photography adds depth to his narrative and the list of vessels and aircraft in the book’s appendix increases its value as an historical resource tool. The author’s final appeal incorporates an explanation of why the Battle of Midway was the turning point in the Second World War and explains how this produced a domino effect which influenced global events and relations well beyond the war.”

Dianna Ritze

Pensacola, Florida

**NEWSFLASH:**

I have received word on February 14 from board member Harry Burroughs that the Appropriations Bill that President Trump just signed this week has the following language: “Midway Island SEC 424”. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to destroy any buildings or structures on Midway Island that have been recommended by the United States Navy for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (54U.S.C. 302101). One word of caution here is that it is my belief that the funding for demolition on Midway comes from the EPA. We are double checking this point.

**THE IMMF WILL BE ON FACEBOOK:**

The IMMF was been offered the opportunity to be on board member Mike Daak’s facebook page which has about 1900 followers. Mike will create the page for facebook and represent the IMMF in its operation. We plan to host at least the quarterly newspaper on facebook and it will operate for a closed group. Stay tuned!!!

**THE GLENN** **MILLER SAGA:**

Dan Kennedy (board member) and I are planning to ask that that the Sarasota Memorial Day Parade held in May be dedicated to Glenn Miller. We plan to invite Dennis Spragg, author of *Glenn Miller: Declassified* as the guest speaker. If the committee approves the idea, the parade will receive newspaper and local T.V. coveragewhich will spread the word that the IMMF is planning to recover the remains of his aircraft in the English Channel.

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**EWA MARINE AIR STATION:**

Ewa Marine Air Station in Hawaii was one the air bases attacked by Japanese aircraft in its attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. John Bond, EWA Marine Air Station historian has been fighting a relentless campaign to preserve and maintain the Marine air base for years. In order to assist him, Bill Dudley and I (representing the IMMF) have written to Congressman Ed Case, representative of the First District in Hawaii in support of Bond’s position. The IMMF has also sent a letter signed by Bill Dudley and I to Louis Berger, Inc., (involved in developing a “Preservation Plan” for EWA Marine Air Station) affirming our positon that the entire EWA Marine Air Station should be preserved and maintained, as well as offering our ideas on some of the best ways to accomplish this mission.

**MIDWAY MASTER’S THESIS PRESENATIONI:**

At 9:00 a.m., on March 28, 2019, Gina McGuire, graduate student at Stanford University will present her thesis for her Master’s Degree on “The Feasibility of Public Visitation for the Midway Atoll” at the University of Hawaii in Hilo, Hawaii. Gina has incorporated the IMMF’s point of view on public visitation at Midway as part of her thesis and presentation. We should receive a follow up after the event.

**Newsflash:**

I recently received word that the new Hollywood movie *Midway* is scheduled to be released in November of this year.

Chris and I wish everyone a happy Easter.

**EDITORIAL BOARD: WEB SITE:**

**James M. D’Angelo www.IMMF-Midway.com**

**Christine M. Sims**

**ADDRESS: E-MAIL:**

**1039 Rainbow Court IMMF 1942@GMAIL.com**

**Bradenton, FL 34212**

**Phone:**

**941-567-5415**

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