



Painting "RENDEZVOUS OVER BOUGAINVILLE" by Shigeo Koike ©

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10 July 2002

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Department of Defense Inspector General  
The Honorable Joseph E. Schmitz  
The Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1900

Dear Mr. Schmitz:

The purpose of this letter is to lodge a formal complaint against the Air Staff.

In November 2001, I wrote the Secretary of the Air Force, James G. Roche, and requested that he perform an investigation "to examine what appears to be a cover up to deny Rex Barber due process and to thwart him from receiving the full credit that he deserves". I went on to add that: "This cover up also seeks to conceal the errors made by the Office of Air Force History".

To date, I have not even had the courtesy of a letter acknowledging receipt of this request, which is attached. I had hoped that no news was good news and that the appropriate investigation was occurring. However, it has been more than six months and I know of no recourse, short of filing suit, that will cause Rex T. Barber to receive the credit that he deserves for shooting down the airplane carrying Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto on 18 April 1943.

DRAWER N  
223 SOUTH MAIN  
PRATT, KANSAS 67124  
TELEPHONE (620) 672-4821  
EMAIL: gtchan@fnbpratt.com  
WEB SITE: http://www.syma.org

I am forced to conclude that the Office of Air Force History, for whatever reasons, has felt that it is best public relations for the Air Force to have the credit divided between Tom G. Lanphier and Rex T. Barber. The questions in paragraph 35 of the attached, CRITICAL EVENT DETAILS IN SUPPORT OF A DENIAL OF DUE PROCESS AND FUNDAMENTAL FAIRNESS TO REX BARBER' CLAIM, constitute some of the critical questions that an impartial investigator should consider when reviewing the entire case.

I ask that you conduct the impartial investigation that the Secretary of the Air Force's office should have conducted. I ask that you examine specifically the "cover up" and the denial of due process that is so clearly documented in the attached correspondence to the Secretary of the Air Force.

Thank you for your assistance.

Cordially,

George T. Chandler  
President

Encl  
GTC/cw

cc: The Honorable Andrew H. Card, Jr., Chief of Staff to  
President George W. Bush  
Oregon Senator Gordon Smith  
Oregon Senator Ron Wyden  
Oregon Congressman David Wu  
Oregon Congressman Greg Walden  
Oregon Congressman Peter A. DeFazio  
Oregon Congressman Earl Blumenauer  
Oregon Congresswoman Darlene Hooley  
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Former Kansas Senator Bob Dole  
Kansas Governor Bill Graves

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