

Painting "RENDEZVOUS OVER BOUGAINVILLE" by Shigeo Koike ©

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26 December 2002

REGISTERED MAIL

COPY

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

Dear Mr. Schmitz:

I have not received a response from you to my letter of 10 July 2002. I have presumed and hoped that this delay in your response was occasioned by your staff examining the basis for my formal complaint and request for an investigation by your office or perhaps the letter was not delivered so I am sending this letter by registered mail.

I allege that there is a cover-up within the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records and the Air Staff that makes recommendation to Secretary of the Air Force James G. Roche that occasioned his letter of 20 August 2001 incorrectly relating the facts on which he based his denial of our request.

I assert that the decision of the AFBCMR is a cover-up of their past actions in refusing full credit for the shoot down of the airplane carrying Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto on 18 April 1943 to Colonel Rex T. Barber. This assertion of

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a cover-up is based on the incontrovertible evidence that the AFBCMR cannot reconcile being:

1. The official position of the Office of Air Force History set forth following the 1985 Victory Credit Board of Review concluded, "The evidence points to 1st Lt. Barber as the first to fire on Admiral Yamamoto's lead bomber, setting it afire and causing a portion of the tail empennage to fly off. But the burning bomber, in the words of Admiral Ugaki, continued to fly under power just above the jungle, losing altitude. Barber's wingman, Capt. Lanphier, once disengaged from the Zeros, next struck Yamamoto's bomber broadside, severing a wing. The bomber turned over on its back and plummeted to earth. Barber, on looking back after his pass, saw the airplane fall and understandably presumed it to be the result of his attack".

This continues to be the position of the OAFH today.

2. The new evidence that we submitted to the AFBCMR on 1 October 1999 was the copy of the newly discovered letter written by Tom Lanphier found among the papers of General James Doolittle. Lanphier's December 1984 letter to General John P. Condon described the plane Lanphier fired on as "The bomber that I shot the wing off of was intact from nose to the tip of its tail when I first fired at it".

This letter is absolute proof that Lanphier did not fire on the Yamamoto airplane that Barber has previously set afire.

For the AFBCMR to say that this 1984 letter is not new evidence is a fraud and I believe it is part of a cover-up to keep the one-half credit accorded to each Barber and Lanphier established by the OAFH rather than recognizing Barber alone as shooting down the Yamamoto aircraft.

I would specifically direct your attention to Item 35 in the attached Critical Events Narration.

I believe that you, as the Inspector General, have an obligation to ask of the AFBCMR two questions:

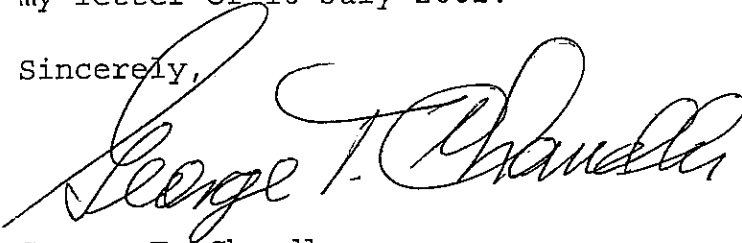
1. What is the official Office of Air Force History credit attribution for the Yamamoto shoot down?
2. How do you reconcile the Lanphier letter with the position of the Office of Air Force History?

So, I respectfully request and even demand that your office do the proper investigation that is expected of the Office of the Inspector General.

If my assertions are correct, as I know they are, there can only be the ineluctable conclusion that Rex T. Barber should receive full credit and the people in the AFBCMR, who are covering up evidence, should be disciplined.

To save you looking through your files I am enclosing a copy of my letter of 10 July 2002.

Sincerely,



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 Congressman Greg Walden
Oregon Congressman Bev Clarno
Oregon Congressman Ben Westlund
Florida Congressman Michael Bilirakis
Kansas Senator Pat Roberts
Kansas Senator Sam Brownback
Former Kansas Senator Bob Dole
Kansas Governor Bill Graves
Mrs. Rex T. Barber
Rex T. Barber, Jr.