

KAS 60-61 Newsletter

It's been a while since you received a hardcopy KAS Newsletter! You might have thought we stopped producing it. Or worse, that our group had gone out of existence. Nothing could be farther from the truth! Our organization is definitely alive and well. If you don't have email, we want to keep you a breast of what the group is up to. If you've started using email, please shoot an email to pjohnson010@carolina.rr.com. He will get you added to our email roster and make sure that you get emails that are circulated within the group.

A lot happened over the past couple years that affected our ability to keep you in the loop. For one thing, our previous editor, Rudy Ruediger, had to step away from producing the Newsletter. Then our efforts over the past 18 months were constrained by the pandemic. Worse yet, we had to cancel our reunion for the first time since we started having them in 2000. But all that is changing this year! Now, starting this September, we're returning to annual reunions. Yee HAH! In fact, the basic details of this year's reunion are provided in the following pages. Read and know! We hope you'll consider joining us for this happy return to our annual get-together. It's not an exhaustive plan of what the reunion will be, but hopefully it's enough to whet your appetite to find out more and to ultimately join us in September. Pete says he's happy to answer any questions you might have, just call him at 980-328-4150. (Ed asked him for next week's lottery numbers, but he hasn't replied yet.)

Finally, in this "re-introduction" of our hardcopy Newsletter, let's introduce our new Newsletter editor:



ED MITCHELL

Karamursel 1958 – 1960

292X1 Dog Flight, still bops ditties as ham op K4BJP

Contact: 5459 Chablis Lane, Fort Myers, FL 33919

Cell: 540-353-5511 -- Email: elashn@gmail.com

Ed has been a member of the KAS 60-61 group for a few years but nobody remembers how many. During our 2019 reunion business meeting, Ed had a couple too many beers and volunteered to be our newsletter editor. But since he retired to Florida, he's been mostly worthless. So, we don't know how often he will get a newsletter out, but we want to hear your thoughts on that. For years it was a quarterly and then we got more random for the last few years, doing a newsletter only when significant events occurred. I know you'll welcome Ed's efforts in this regard. And if he doesn't make enough effort, let him know. You can help by sending him your AFSS, Karamursel, and Turkish topics & photos etc., as well as your current interests for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Pete Johnson

Moderator, KAS 60-61



YES! We WILL be having our annual reunion this year! So, you can make your room reservations with the Beach Cove Resort for our KAS60-61 REUNION 2021 right NOW! This newsletter has all the basic information you need. If you have any questions beyond what's here, call Pete at 980-328-4150. If you don't get an answer, please leave him a message. He's pretty good about returning his calls.

BASIC REUNION FEE: \$125 per person. This must be paid prior to the reunion by check made out to KAS 60-61 and mailed to Mark Gransden, 4743 Sandpointe Drive, New Port Richey, FL 34655

BEGINNING DATE: Friday, September 10th (check-in at 4:00PM, but usually available earlier)

DEPARTURE DATE: Tuesday, September 14th (check-out by 11:00AM)

*Remember, you can arrive up to 3 days early and/or stay up to 3 days afterward at our special rates.

ROOM RATE: 1 bedroom suite - \$112.00 (tax & resort fee included)

2 bedroom suite - \$173.60 (tax & resort fee included)

REGISTRATION: Call the Beach Cove at **888-974-5531** and tell them you're with the KAS reunion

*A credit card (or advanced deposit) for one night will be required. This will be refunded if you have to cancel. If you do need to cancel, contact Pete Johnson at 980-328-4150. Please note that if you pay your room fee at the registration desk with a credit card, a 2.5% fee is added. No fee for debit card payment.

BASIC SCHEDULE:

Friday 6:30PM Welcome Plated Dinner. When you pay your reunion fee, please indicate whether you want steak, chicken or salmon.

Saturday (open) Corn Hole Tournament. Open to all

7:00PM Carolina Opry Theater (optional event, fee of \$31 per person. If you want to attend, you must include the ticket fee when you send in your basic reunion fee...prior to the reunion.)

Sunday 11:00AM Putt-putt (optional, with fee). You pay the fee at the venue.

6:30PM Pool Party with finger food and a pay-as-you-go bar

Monday 10:00AM Business meeting / Ladies' tea

6:30PM Annual banquet and short program

Tuesday 7:30AM Departure breakfast buffet



KARAMURSEL AIR STATION 1960 - 1961

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE! If you want to come, bear in mind that our block of room reservations will close by mid-August, so waiting too long to register may result in no rooms available. You can always get more detailed information on the reunion by calling Pete Johnson at 980-328-4150.

We regret that we are so LATE getting the hardcopy newsletter out to our members who don't have Internet. (You can yell at Ed about that.) So, we can't confirm that you will be able order for our reunion t-shirts before the cutoff date. FLASH UPDATE! See the note below for latest info about tee shirts.

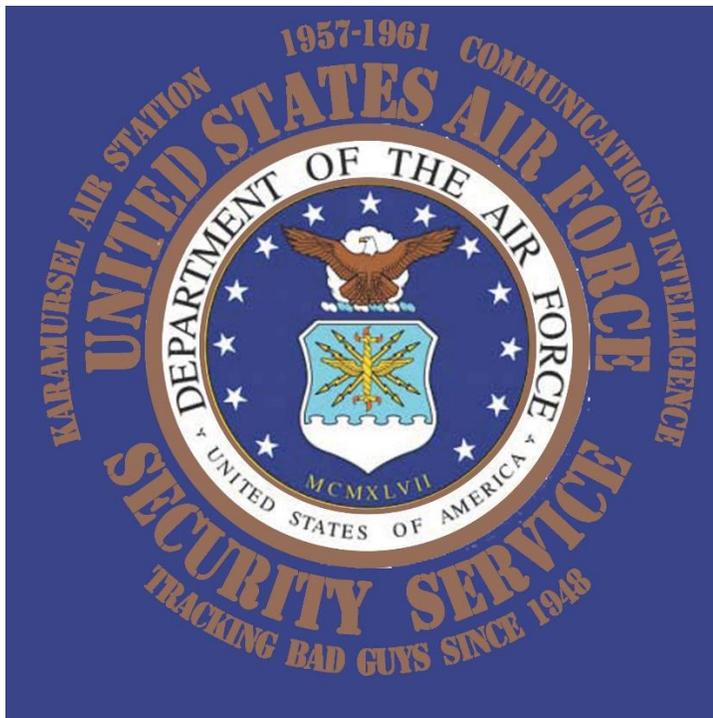
Don't hesitate to call Pete if he can provide any additional information to you.

KAS 60-61 Reunion 2021

Beach Cove Resort, N. Myrtle Beach, SC

*****TEE SHIRT UPDATE!*****

There is STILL some time to get a tee shirt. The deadline to order has already passed. BUT, good old nice guy Dick Casseri will still take an order from you IF you phone him right away. But only if you CALL before 7/25/21. Be nice to him and tell him it's Ed Mitchell's fault that you're placing your order so late. Call Dick Casseri right away at 716-549-4975. Do it NOW!



Back of tee shirt



Front of tee shirt

Seems Impossible Now – But 80 Years Ago WE DID IT !



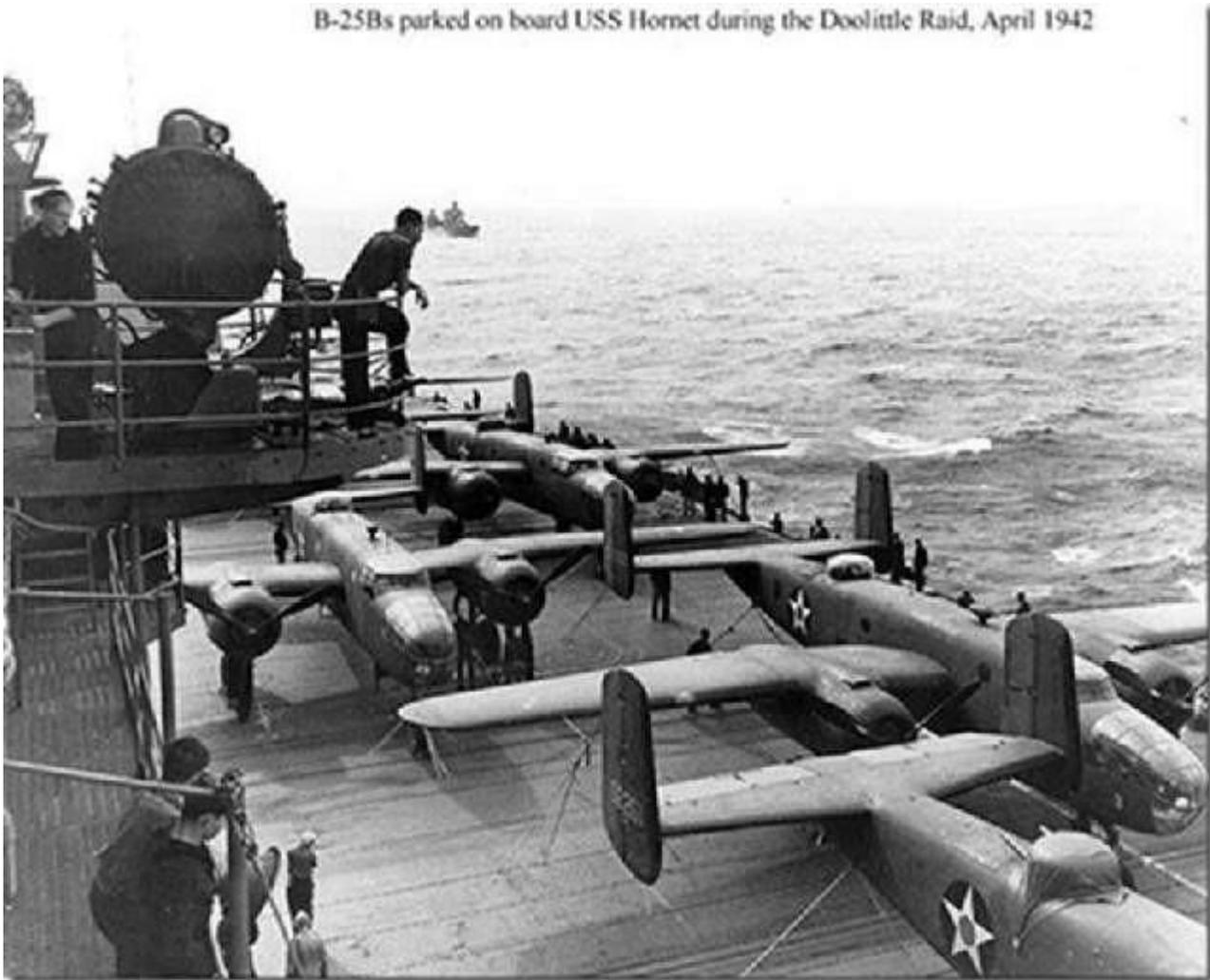
During the 3½ years of World War II starting when Japan bombed of Pearl Harbor in December of 1941, and ending with the surrender of Germany and Japan in 1945, "We the People of the U.S.A." produced the following:

- 22 aircraft carriers
- 8 battleships
- 48 cruisers
- 349 destroyers
- 420 destroyer escorts
- 203 submarines
- 34 million tons of merchant ships
- 100,000 fighter aircraft
- 98,000 bombers
- 24,000 transport aircraft
- 58,000 training aircraft
- 93,000 tanks
- 257,000 artillery pieces
- 105,000 mortars
- 3,000,000 machine guns and
- 2,500,000 military trucks

We put 16.1 million men in uniform in the various armed services. We invaded Africa, invaded Sicily and Italy, won the battle for the Atlantic, and we planned and executed D-Day. We marched across the Pacific and Europe, developed the atomic bomb and, ultimately, we conquered Japan and Germany.

After Japan's sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States was reeling and wounded. We needed something dramatic to turn the war effort around. Even though we had no friendly airfields close enough to Japan for the United States to launch a retaliation, a daring plan was devised. Sixteen B-25 bombers were modified to take off from the deck of an aircraft carrier. Launching bombers from an carrier had never been done before.

B-25Bs parked on board USS Hornet during the Doolittle Raid, April 1942

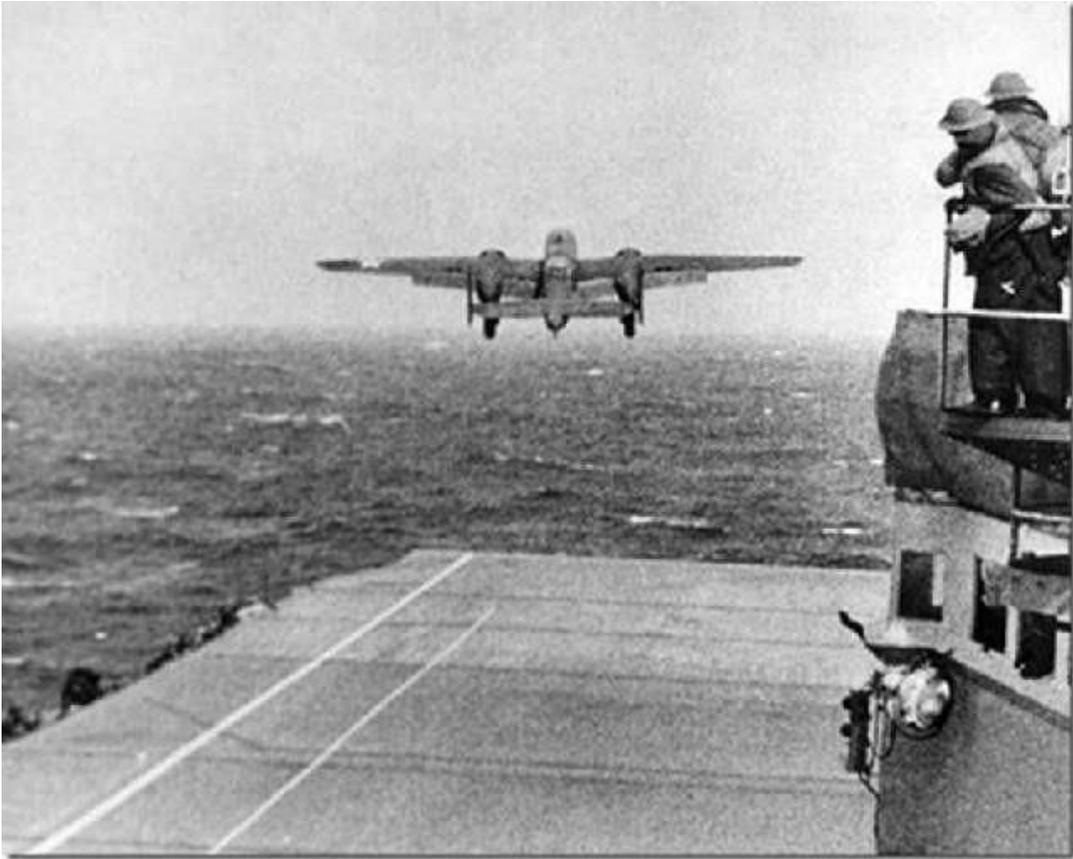


The 16 five-man crews under the command of Lt. Col. James Doolittle, who flew the lead plane off the USS Hornet, knew they would not be able to return to the carrier. They would have to hit Japan and then hope to make it to China for a safe landing.



But on the day of the raid, the Japanese military caught wind of the plan. The Raiders were told that they would have to take off from much farther out in the Pacific Ocean than they had counted on. They were told that because of this they might not have enough fuel to reach a safe landing. Those men went anyway.





They bombed Tokyo and then flew as far as they could. Four planes crash-landed; 11 more crews bailed out, and three of the Raiders died. Eight more were captured; three were executed. Another died of starvation in a Japanese prison camp. One crew made it to Russia .



The Doolittle Raiders sent a message to enemies of the United States and to the rest of the world: We will fight. And, no matter what it takes, we will win. Of the 80 Raiders, 62 survived the war. They were celebrated as national heroes, models of bravery.

Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer produced a motion picture based on the raid. "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo" starring Spencer Tracy and Van Johnson, was a patriotic and emotional box-office hit, and the phrase became part of the national lexicon. In the movie-theater previews for the film, MGM proclaimed that it was presenting the story *with supreme pride*.



Beginning in 1946, the surviving Raiders have held a reunion each April, to commemorate the mission. The reunion is in a different city each year. In 1959, the city of Tucson, Arizona, as a gesture of respect and gratitude, presented the Doolittle Raiders with a set of 80 silver goblets. Each goblet was engraved with the name of a Raider.

Every year, a wooden display case bearing all 80 goblets is transported to the reunion city. Each time a Raider passes away, his goblet is turned upside down in the case at the next reunion, as his old friends bear solemn witness.



Also in the wooden case is a bottle of 1896 Hennessy Very Special cognac. The year is not happenstance: 1896 was when Jimmy Doolittle was born.



There was always a plan: When there are only two surviving Raiders, they would open the bottle, at last drink from it, and toast their comrades who preceded them in death. As 2013 began, there were five living Raiders.



The Final Chapter

Lt Col. [Richard E. Cole](#), Doolittle's copilot in aircraft No. 1, was the last surviving Doolittle Raider and the only one to live to an older age than Doolittle, who died in 1993 at age 96. Cole was the only Raider still alive when the wreckage of *Hornet* was found in late January 2019 by the [research vessel *Petrel*](#) at a depth of more than 17,000 feet (5,200 m) off the Solomon Islands. Cole died 9 April 2019, at the age of 103.

They are all gone now but should never be forgotten.