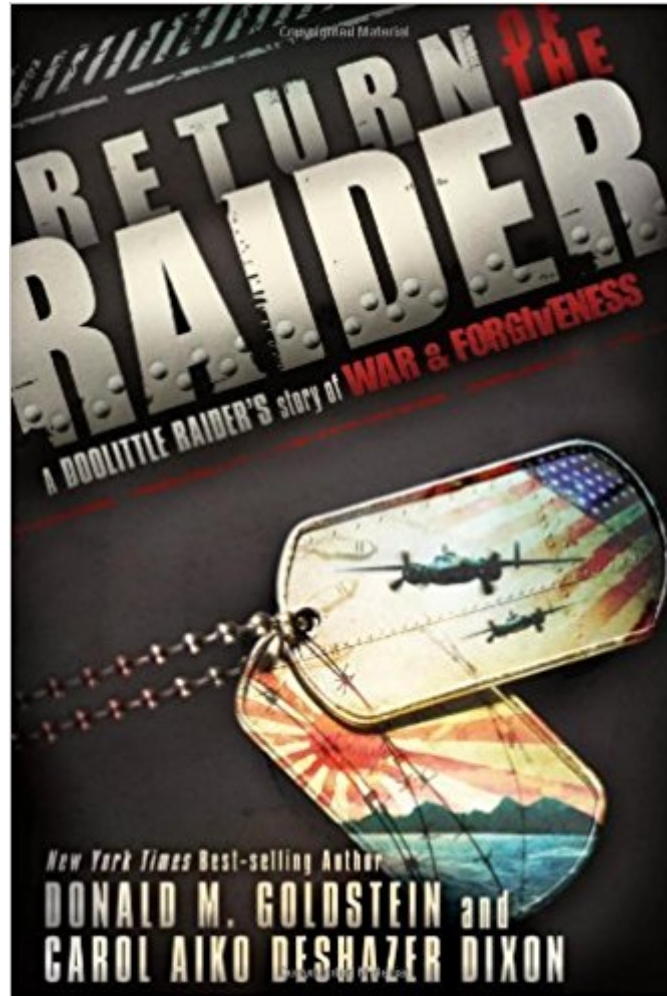


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Return Of The Raider: A Doolittle Raider's Story Of War & Forgiveness



Synopsis

Jacob DeShazer, a farm boy from Oregon, joined the army Air Corps at age 27. He had always wanted to be a pilot, but when he did not qualify, an opportunity opened to become a bombardier. By luck of the draw, Jacob found himself as one of the 80 men participating in the famous Doolittle Raid over Japan shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. During the raid, Jacob and his fellow crewmen bailed out over China and were taken captive by the Japanese as prisoners of war for more than three years. In that Japanese POW camp, every day facing torture and death, Jacob's path changed when his request for a Bible was fulfilled. Jacob came back to the Christian faith in which he was raised, and made a vow to God in his prison cell that if he survived he would return to Japan, not as a warrior but as a missionary. The Jacob DeShazer story is not only about the bravery of a soldier during war, but also about how powerful love and forgiveness can be when given to the enemy.

Book Information

Hardcover: 192 pages

Publisher: Creation House; First Edition edition (July 6, 2010)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1616381906

ISBN-13: 978-1616381905

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.8 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #251,861 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #42 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > Asia > Japan #2417 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Leaders & Notable People > Military #3016 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Historical > United States

Customer Reviews

I am halfway through this book and it's wonderful to read! The story of Jacob DeShazer is amazing! First he's a literal World War Two hero, participating in one of the key events of the war. Then he's a Prisoner of War, enduring horrible torture in Japanese prison camps. Then he becomes a hero of the Christian faith, first becoming a Christian in his POW camp, then answering God's call to return to Japan as a missionary. His years of mission work in Japan not only led many Japanese to turn to Christ, but he also was part of helping restore the friendship between the nations of Japan and America. This book has the advantages of being written by both a professional Pulitzer Prize winning

author and by DeShazer's own daughter. So there's a nice insider/outsider mix in telling the story. Jacob DeShazer is one of my all-time heroes! His wife Florence is also a real hero and an amazing woman.

While the name of Jacob DeShazer has been unfamiliar to many historians, DeShazer's story is one of the most amazing to come out of World War II. It is an astonishing story. DeShazer had to endure horrible atrocities, felling and receiving hatred. But he found love and forgiveness and showed it to those who hated him. DeShazer lived out the worst and best of all of these. He was very much a product of his times, growing up in the depression. He went to war hating the Japanese, just as most of the rest of the country did. He became a POW as a result of one of the most famous actions of the Pacific Theater in WWII--the Doolittle Raid. He suffered terribly at the hands of his Japanese captors who labeled him a war criminal. His story of conversion, forgiveness and resulting action is amazing. Now, a noted historian (Goldstein) and DeShazer's daughter have collaborated to tell the story in the most complete way with true history and the personal touches that were added through family pictures, letters, and remembrances. No one can read this story and be the same afterward. I think this is a must read.

I am blessed to have personally known Mr. Deshazer and heard his testimony many times as I was growing up. What a treat to read his biography and learn even more about this amazing man. Mr. Deshazer's story clearly demonstrates the power of Christ's love and forgiveness. We all have hurts in our life that need healing, ones that we cannot get past on our own and by reading this story, maybe we will take one step closer to the truth: in Christ, all things are possible and His love is perfect, unfailing and never ceasing.

A very interesting story of Jacob DeShazer's return to Japan as a missionary after being held there as a prisoner of war. Good, factual reading for anyone interested in World War II or missionary stories. It traces his life as a young, brash pilot (part of the Doolittle Raiders), prison experiences, his conversion and realization that God's mercy is more powerful than weapons of war. Recognized by his peers and newsmen world-wide, he is a true hero of that era.

I was fascinated by this account of a man who willingly put himself in a casket with wings to avenge the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and survived the odds only to come back and forgive our enemy. Not just with words, but actions as he spent his life spreading love and forgiveness in the former

enemies country through the message of an all forgiving God through Christ.

This was an excellent story of a Doolittle Raider and how he forgave even after the war. My cousin, Harold A. Spatz, was on the same plane as Jake DeShazer, being the 16th plane to leave the carrier for their mission. My cousin was not as fortunate as Jake, as he was executed by the Japanese at the age of 21 in October, 1942.

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