

# Patriot Project

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A Teaching American History Grant

The following is information synthesized from the World War II information boards created by Patriot Project Participants on September 11, 2010. Additional information/sources may be added in some cases.

## **Doolittle Raid**

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Due to the bombing of Pearl Harbor, for the first time ever, the United States launched an air attack on Japan from an air craft carrier. The joint Army-Navy bombing project was conceived, in its final form, in January 1942, and accomplished in April 1942. The object of the project was to bomb the industrial centers of Japan. Secrecy was of the utmost importance. Only two men aboard the USS Hornet were aware of the specified target. On the afternoon of April 17, 1942, the words, "Attention! The target is Tokyo!" were spoken. The original plan was that the bombers would take off four hundred miles off the Japanese coast. Because of early detection, the planes were forced to take off six hundred miles off the coast. The attack took place on April 18, 1942.

## **Quote**

**General James H. Doolittle, 9 July 1942**

" It was hoped that the damage done would be both material and psychological. Material damage was to be the destruction of specific targets with ensuing confusion and retardation of production. The psychological results, it was hoped, would be the recalling of combat equipment from other theaters for home defense thus effecting relief in those theaters, the development of a fear complex in Japan, improved relationships with Allies, and a favorable reaction on the American people."

## **Key Personnel**

Franklin D. Roosevelt  
joint

President of the United States, he expressed to

James Doolittle	Chiefs of Staff that Japan must be bombed to boost moral Lieutenant in charge of attacking force
Marc A. Mitscher	Commanding officer of the USS Hornet
Francis Low	Navy Captain and Assistant Chief of Staff for Anti-Submarine Warfare

## Timeline

December 7, 1941	Pearl Harbor Bombing
December 21, 1941	President Roosevelt talks to Joint Chiefs of Staff
about	
February 3, 1942	bombing of Japan Two B52's are flown off the deck of USS Hornet
from	
February 9, 1942	Norfolk, VA 17 <sup>th</sup> bomb group, planes fitted with bombers,
asked to	
March 1, 1942	volunteer for extremely hard mission Twenty four crews fly to Eglin Field, FL to start 3
weeks	
April 1, 1942	of intense training
April 2, 1942	Sixteen bombers and crew loaded onto USS Hornet
April 18, 1942	Left Port of Alameda heading to Japan Japanese boat radioed warning of carrier to Japan, aircraft launched and bombed 10 military and
industrial	
	targets in Tokyo

## Effects of the Doolittle Raid

- US realizes aircraft can be launched from carriers at sea
- Major increase in troop morale
- Caused confusion among Japanese commanders resulting in withdrawal of IJN units from Indian Ocean
- Withdrawal of IJN units relieves all pressure from British Navy
- Extreme Japanese reaction to Chinese assistance of US troops results in Zhejiang Jiangxi Campaign....germ warfare kills 250,000 villagers and 20,000 square miles along coastline is destroyed

## Sources

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