

## Editorial

Your editor was moved to write an editorial regarding truth. We all are subject to distortions created by the media when assumptions are stated by individuals delivering the message. These assumptions become accepted as reality, when in fact they are only unstated opinions by these same persons whether by print or audio and visual media. In the rush to bring out the news first, these assumptions are made much too quick, hence the distortion. This often creates a hysteria that builds on itself. You may have observed that in the media's rush to reveal sensational events, sudden solutions are demanded of government and responsible persons. The seeking of truth takes time and must be determined by the individual.

Now we have an added distortion of truth that is called Political Correctness. Political Correctness is the subject of our first story, "Day of Infamy," by Joseph Norris. It seems to be in style these days to bend historic events so as to not hurt someone's feelings. This editorial deals with an attempt to spare the Japanese embarrassment for the loss of the WWII Pacific War.

The Joe Norris Story dispels the lie that the Roosevelt Administration allowed the Pearl Harbor attack to take place so he could rally the United States into global war. "What Poppycock!" The truth of the matter is the President was brought almost to tears when he learned of the devastation and loss of life.

When it comes to the Japanese, the attack on Pearl Harbor was a colossal blunder. Here was a nation with one tenth the production capacity of the United States at the time, without significant natural resources such as oil, and steel. Japan went to war to steal these resources from the weaker nations of the southwest Pacific, and to conquer land to resettle its growing population. The attack on Pearl was to throw United States off balance freeing the Imperial Japanese Military to conquer and destroy other nations at will.

Until now, your Editor has not written on issues outside the Association's field, but the proposed display of the Enola Gay exhibit by the Smithsonian's Air & Space Museum next May in Washington DC has roused me enough to speak out. At issue is the alleged revision of historical events to fit a theme created by persons who were not witness to the events of WWII. I use "allege" as I have not seen the original and revised proposals and am reflecting criticism from many newspapers and veterans publications.

It would seem that the post WWII generations might have pangs of guilt for the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki without firsthand knowledge of the events of June-August 1945. We should be spared this nonsense.

It is interesting to note that many more Japanese citizens were killed in the fire raids preceding the A- bomb, but this destruction to life and property by conventional bombs does not seem to generate the same type of guilt by the revisionists.

Was it a cruel and inhumane act? Of course it was, but so is warfare itself. The Japanese Army were cruel and inhumane captors, remember the Bataan Death March? Were any apologies given by the Japanese at the time or since? So why is the Enola Gay exhibit not addressing Japanese guilt as well?

The point the Smithsonian wants to make is that the atom bomb was not needed to end the Pacific War. Well, well, where were these armchair quarterbacks when they were needed and when the decision to drop the bomb was made?

Why the A- bomb in the first place? Scientists from many countries in the thirties had advanced theories that the splitting of the atom could release huge amounts of energy and that an atom bomb was theoretically possible. Albert Einstein, the celebrated physicist, and a refugee from Hitler's persecution wrote a letter to President Roosevelt on August 2, 1939 to the effect that a uranium bomb of tremendous power could be built. In 1940 it was learned in the United States that German scientists had started work on the bomb, hence the nation first with the bomb was going to win the war.

The facts are: Japan of the thirties was a warring nation, with attacks starting in China in September 18, 1931 and the capture of Manchuria, the

bombing of Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1942 and the conquests in southeast Asia. After the Battle of Midway, June 4-6, 1942, the Japanese expansion was stopped cold. This was the time for the Japanese to seek a peaceful settlement to the Pacific War. It was also the time to seek peace after the island of Okinawa was captured in late June 1945. They did not and would not admit that the war was lost.

The fierce and suicidal defenses of the islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa in June 1945 were very costly in American lives and material. The American military was now fully aware that an invasion of the Japanese home islands was going to be a very bloody venture.

It was known through Ultra intercepts that the Japanese were pouring men and material into Kyushu in a desperate effort to turn it into a killing ground so bloody that the United States would seek a negotiated peace. At the time air attacks from Okinawa were making little impact on the buildup up of men, planes and artillery. Underground hangars and camouflaged runways were being built. Nearly 5000 Kamikazes were being stockpiled for a one way flight. It had cost the Americans 50,000 casualties to occupy Okinawa alone. It was estimated that of the quarter million troops McArthur had on hand to

# The Enola Gay & Political Correctness