



Lt/Cmr Edward H "Butch" O'Hare

in 100 yards of the Lexington's stern. O'Hare, still hungry, fired nearly all his remaining ammo at one of the retreating survivors. Then he reined in and headed for the barn. His first request upon landing was for a glass of water, and small wonder. In a sizzling four minutes he made three gunnery passes, shooting five Bettys out of formation.

Seven Wildcats were damaged, including O'Hare's, which sustained one 7.7-mm bullet in the fuselage and two shrapnel hits in the wings. Butch and his damaged plane limped back to the carrier. When the film in his wing camera was processed, his bravery was evident. He was credited with saving the carrier Lexington. Afterward Thach figured out that Butch O'Hare had used only sixty rounds of ammunition for each plane he destroyed.

For his extraordinary feat he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. Originally recommended for a Navy cross, O'Hare received the Congressional Medal Of Honor from President Roosevelt the only carrier based aviator among the eight F4F pilots eventually awarded that distinction. When the folks at Bethpage, LI, where the Grumman Wildcats were built, heard about his feat, they sent him the most precious gift they could imagine. Somehow, in ration shortage wartime, they collected 5,000 cigarettes.

The night of November 27, 1943, the "Black Panthers" new Hellcat fighters were assigned to a radar carrying Avenger whose job was to vector the fighter pilots into the attacking Japanese bombers, but the Hellcats had trouble finding the Avengers. One of the Avengers shot down an enemy bomber, but in the confusion of the brief action, nothing could be seen but the flaming gasoline from the downed Betty burning on the water. Suddenly, the Avenger identified another Betty behind the Hellcats. The Avenger rear gunner fired at it. Moments later, O'Hare failed to respond to the radio. O'Hare's Hellcat fell out of control into the sea. It is believed that friendly fire from the Avenger's gunner Alvin Kernan mistakenly shot him down. He was never found.

Before all of this happened one "Easy Eddie" worked for the notorious Al Capone. Eddie, was Al Capone's lawyer, and he

was a very good lawyer. So good, that despite the murders committed by Capone, "Easy Eddie" was able to keep him out of jail. Naturally, Al Capone took care of Eddie financially. Eddie had a huge beautifully furnished house with live-in help and all of the modern conveniences available. "Easy Eddie" had a son who he doted on. He gave the boy everything of the best. He bought him cars, fancy clothes and cars, and saw that his son got the best education possible. "Easy Eddie," however, was not happy. He realized that the one thing he was unable to give his son was a good name and a good example of how to live an upright life. "Easy Eddie" decided that this was more important to him than all the riches he received from Capone. "Easy Eddie" went to the authorities and agreed to testify against Capone. He did testify, despite knowing that he surely would be killed. Capone went to jail. Within a few months, Easy Eddie O'Hare was gunned down by Al Capone's gunmen, most likely because he had given the government information useful in its prosecution of Capone. Lt /Cmr Edward H "Butch" O'Hare, USN 1914-1943 was "Easy Eddie's" son.

The Chicago airport was named for The Medal Of Honor winner, Lt /Cmr Edward H "Butch" O'Hare as remembrance of his bravery in saving the Lexington.

Send Us Your WWII Memorabilia and Documentation

Important WWII Documents can be lost when a WWII veteran passes on. These documents need to be preserved for future generations to see. Most of the internet mail to the Associations' bud484bg@aol.com is from the descendants of our deceased members. They want to know what their father, grandfather, and/or uncle did in the war. These documents can help recall the events and stories of our deceased soldiers and airmen. The documents can include, 1) orders, 2) Maps, 3) Photographs, 4) Publications, Yank Magazine, wartime 15th Air Force "Sortie," Air Force Magazine, Impact books, and so on. If in doubt contact me at 310/316/3330. Send them on to us, we will include your materials with the Association's collection that will be sent to an existing museum or library after December, 2001. The material you send in that is appropriate for publication will also be considered for inclusion in the Flyer.

The Post War Generation

There is a great gap of knowledge and understanding between actual experience and getting the information second hand from the media that was subjected to the writer's own bias. Thus the great controversy over the bombing of Hiroshima. The complaints came mostly from the post war generation who learned about the war second hand.

If you want your children to know about the war first hand without bias, then tell them your own story. The whole purpose of the Association is to preserve the history of WWII so that our sacrifices and deeds will not be forgotten.

One of our members, Walter Bondarchuk visits schools on a regular schedule and tells of his own war experiences. The students love it because it brings to life the dull texts that can only reflect what might have happened as compared to what really happened.