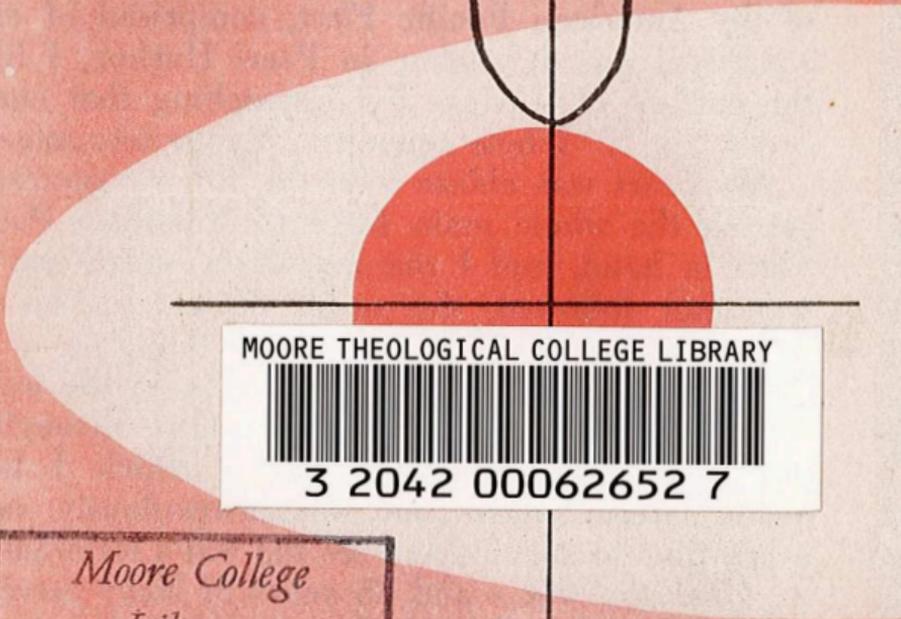


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# I BOMBED PEARL HARBOR

## "I LED THE AIR RAID ON PEARL HARBOR"

### *Captain Mitsuo Fuchida's Personal Testimony*

**I AM MITSUO FUCHIDA.** As chief commander of the air squadron, I participated in the air raid on Pearl Harbor on December 8, 1941 (Japan Time), which opened the Pacific war.

**That morning,** seating myself in the first plane, I led the whole squadron of 360 planes into Pearl Harbor, and having ascertained that the main force of the American Pacific Fleet, comprised of eight warships, was at anchor in Pearl Harbor, I lifted the curtain of warfare by despatching that cursed order No. 1, "Whole squadron, plunge into attack!"

**My heart** was ablaze with joy for my success in getting the whole main force of American Pacific Fleet in hand, and I put my whole effort into the war that followed, the result of which was that misery which is clear to everyone today.

**Having** thus started participation in the war, I devoted myself to conducting warfare throughout the following four years, during which I faced death several times, but was miraculously saved every time to survive and see the war's termination.

**After** the war—and 25 years of Navy service—I retired and took myself to farming, but it was indeed a path of thorns to me. I had never in my life realized so keenly the unreliability of other men as I did during these years. I built my house and digged the well; but my life was a re-enactment of the story of Robinson Crusoe.

**However,** as I continued living in closer relation to the earth, my mind was gradually led to think of the presence of God, the creator of all these. I came to feel ashamed of my former godless idea

that man's own power and ability was his only trustworthy resource. I had never been an atheist. But I was brought up in circumstances of very little religious atmosphere, and grew to manhood without any religion. When I enlisted in the Navy, I adopted the "War Catechism" as my only ideology.

**With** the termination of war, the national aspect was altogether transformed and Japan stepped out for the reconstruction of the nation with the slogan of PEACE. In the years that followed, I watched the constant change of social phenomena, but with cold eyes. Finally I arrived at the conclusion that the only way for the Japanese to survive and prosper would be for the Japanese people to become thoroughly peaceful, irrespective of other nations' conditions.

**However,** my militarily specialized mind saw in the prevalent world conditions a possible danger of another war and a second Pearl Harbor. Therefore, with the sincere desire to warn the people, I determined to send out into the world a book entitled "No More Pearl Harbor," no matter how insignificant my work might be.

**As** my writing progressed, I came to realize that in my appeal for "No More Pearl Harbor" there must be an assurance of the transformation of hatred among mankind to true brotherly love. So long as mankind remained in opposition to one another within the frame of nationality, the only consequence could be the destruction of civilization.

**The** latter half of the twentieth century should be a generation of mankind as a whole, and not a generation of separate nations; but finally the problem remained as to WHO could be the one to accomplish such a great task as this.

**In** the midst of these thoughts, one day in Tokyo at Shibuya railroad station at a Pocket Testament League meeting, I received a Christian pamphlet. The pamphlet was the testimony of Sgt. Jacob DeShazer entitled "I was a war prisoner of Japan."

**At** the first glance my mind was captivated and I read the pamphlet through with great enthusiasm. One portion of the pamphlet interested me particularly, and that was the confession of Mr. DeShazer that during his imprisonment, he one day came to feel a strong desire to read the Bible. He recalled to mind what he had heard before about Christianity which could transform human hatred to true brotherly love. This portion, as I read, drew my mind to the same state, and with a desire to read the Bible I purchased one and started reading. Before covering the first thirty pages my mind was strongly impressed and captivated.

**"This is it!"** I was strongly convinced. I concluded that the true realization of "No More Pearl Harbor" was no other than to expect Christ's second coming and to endeavor to prepare men from all over the world to welcome Christ's return.

**As** a first approach towards this, I was convinced that I should first of all become a good Christian. Thus, I contacted Pocket Testament League representatives who showed me from the Bible how to become a Christian. I then opened my heart and accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour on April 14, 1950.

**I** still realize my need of Christian growth, but I feel great joy in my daily Bible reading, and my heart is filled with peace as I kneel down to pray. Moreover, I think I can say today without hesitation that God's grace had been set upon me and guided me even before I came to know Christ.

Mitsuo Fuchida,  
who bombed Pearl  
Harbor, and Jake  
DeShazer, who  
bombed Tokyo,  
meet as brothers  
in Christ.





**CAPTAIN MITSUO FUCHIDA**, led the bombing raid on Pearl Harbor which opened the Pacific war. First man over the target and last to leave it, after personally damaging the battleship Maryland, he is sole surviving officer of the 7 commanders and 32 squadron leaders whom he led in the Pearl Harbor raid. He now has good reason to feel that God spared his life that he might be saved and become a Christian testimony.

Captain Fuchida had many close brushes with death, including six crashes at sea. Shortly before the battle of Midway he underwent an appendectomy on board ship. Though he did not fly, he was in the thick of that battle. A bomb-hit on his ship broke both his legs and hurled him into the sea, from which he was rescued and sent back to Japan. Had he not been out of action he would have commanded the Japanese air force at Guadalcanal and might well have met the fate of many of his fellow officers who died there.

God had other plans for Captain Fuchida, as this testimony from his own lips reveals.



**Captain Fuchida** is just one of the multitudes of Japanese who have professed conversion as the result of the work of the PTL teams in Japan.

*Margaretta Mary Woodriff  
Memorial Library*

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