

## God's Samurai



Jacob Daniel DeShazer participated in the Doolittle Raid as a staff sergeant. Army base in Oregon, DeShazer heard news of the attack on Pearl Harbor over the radio. He became enraged, shouting: "The Japs are going to have to pay for this!" Following the attack on Pearl Harbor, Staff Sergeant DeShazer volunteered to join a special unit that was formed to attack Japan. The raid was a success, but DeShazer and the rest of the crew were forced to parachute into enemy territory over Ningpo, China when their B-25 ran out of fuel. DeShazer was injured in his fall into a cemetery and was captured the very next day by the Japanese. During his captivity, DeShazer was sent to Tokyo with the survivors of another Doolittle crew, and was held in a series of P.O.W. camps both in Japan and China for 40 months – 34 of them in solitary confinement. He was severely beaten and malnourished while three of the crew were executed by a firing squad, and another died of slow starvation. During his captivity, DeShazer persuaded one of his guards to loan him a copy of the Bible. Although he only had possession of the Bible for three weeks, he saw its messages as the reason for his survival and resolved to become a devout Christian. His conversion included learning a few words of Japanese and treating his captors with respect, which resulted in the guards reacting in a similar fashion. After his release, DeShazer began studying to be a missionary, eventually to return to Japan with his wife, Florence, in 1948. One of the most inspiring stories to come out of World War II is the story of how DeShazer, the Doolittle Raider who bombed Nagoya, met Captain Mitsuo Fuchida, who led the attack on Pearl Harbor, becoming close friends. Fuchida became a Christian in 1950 after reading a tract written about DeShazer titled, *I Was a Prisoner of Japan*, and spent the rest of his life as a missionary in Asia and the United States. On occasion, DeShazer and Fuchida preached together as Christian missionaries in Japan. In 1959, DeShazer moved to Nagoya to establish a Christian church in the city he had bombed.



Mitsuo Fuchida was a Captain in the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service and a Imperial Japanese Navy flying ace pilot before and during World War II. He is perhaps best known for leading the first air wave attacks on Pearl Harbor. At 0749 hours Fuchida instructed his radio operator, to send the coded signal "To, To, To" (Totsugeskiseyo, or "charge!") to his aircraft. At 0753, Fuchida ordered the code words "Tora! Tora! Tora!" (tiger). The three word message meant that complete surprise had been achieved in the attack. In the fall of 1948, Fuchida was passing by the bronze statue of Hachiko at the Shibuya Station when he was handed a pamphlet about the life of Jacob DeShazer who was captured by the Japanese. In the pamphlet "I Was a Prisoner of Japan" Deshazer, himself a former U.S. Army Air Force Staff Sergeant and bombardier, told his story of imprisonment, torture and an awakening to God. Fuchida became more curious about Christianity but couldn't find a Bible at the time in post-war Japan, but in the spring of 1949, again at the statue of Hachiko he met a man selling Bibles, and he bought one. In May of 1950, he and Jacob DeShazer met for the first time, as friends. Fuchida spent the rest of his life telling others what God had done for him around the world. In February 1954, Reader's Digest published Fuchida's story of the attack on Pearl Harbor. He also authored and co-authored books including, From Pearl Harbor to Golgotha (aka From Pearl Harbor to Calvary) and Midway (aka Midway: The Battle that Doomed Japan, the Japanese Navy's Story). His story is told in God's Samurai: Lead Pilot at Pearl Harbor (The Warriors). taken from wikipedia. Message from Pastor Sam yesterday. It is indeed, nothing is impossible with God. Even two enemy can become friends in the love of Christ.