



# Pau Hana Koa

- The Warriors' Newsletter -  
Hawaii State Chapter  
Military Officers Association of America



Vol. 26 No. 4

WEBSITE <http://www.moaa-hawaii.org>

April 2011

## AN ENEMY PLANE THAT SAVED AMERICAN LIVES

*(Continued from the March PHK)*

Last month's PHK provided you an insight into the closing chapter of an attacking Japanese ZERO, flown by Lt Koga, who attempted to crash land his battle-damaged plane in an Alaskan swamp. The ZERO was recovered, shipped back to California, repaired and flight tested by LCDR Sanders. He quickly developed a key tactic which changed the ZERO's previous air-to-air combat success ratio in favor of allied Fighters. The story of this key intelligence find, which contributed to reversing the results of air-to-air engagements continues:



For example, in April 1942 thirty-six Zeros attacking a British naval base at Colombo, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), were met by about sixty Royal Air Force aircraft of mixed types, many of them obsolete. Twenty-seven of the RAF planes went down: fifteen

Hawker Hurricanes (of Battle of Britain fame), eight Fairey Swordfish, and four Fairey Fulmars. The Japanese lost one Zero.

Five months after America's entry into the war, the Zero was still a mystery to U.S. Navy pilots. On May 7, 1942, in the Battle of the Coral Sea, fighter pilots from our aircraft carriers Lexington and Yorktown fought the Zero and didn't know what to call it. Some misidentified it as the German Messerschmitt 109.

Kogo's Zero was added to the U.S. Navy inventory and assigned its Mitsubishi serial number. The Japanese colors and insignia were replaced with those of the U.S. Navy and later the U.S. Army Air Corps, which also test-flew it. The Navy pitted it against the best American fighters of the time, the P-38 Lockheed Lightning, the P-39 Bell Airacobra, the P-51 North American Mustang, the F4F-4 Grumman Wildcat, and the F4U ChanceVought Corsair, and for each type developed the most effective tactics and altitudes for engaging the Zero. The captured Zero was a treasure. It unlocked so many secrets *(Cont'd on Page 7)*

## ALL YOU WISH TO KNOW ABOUT TRIPLER — CHAPTER LUNCHEON, APRIL 14



Over the years the Tripler Army Medical Center (TMAC) earned accolades and awards from the Army Surgeon General and National Medical Associations. Consistent with the Center's focus on providing improved health care, they have experienced an annual 10% increase in outpatient and inpatient workload which is greater than previous years. TMAC's productive efforts have resulted in increased capacity, more appointments, and improving patients health status through healthier lifestyles and exacting compliance with industry standards for specialized health exams. Their staff fully acknowledges that the patient is the center of what they do through their dedicated professional performance. Of key importance to their mission is the medical service they provide to our wounded warriors and their families. The Commander of TAMC has tasked his Chief – Managed Care Division and his Deputy plus an expert on TRICARE/TriWest to meet with our Chapter on Thursday, April 14th, for our monthly luncheon at Fort Shafter Hale Ikena. Come to get the latest information on what Tripler offers active and retired military personnel and to ask questions concerning specialized care through TMAC. **See page 5** to sign up by April 10<sup>th</sup>.

### Coming Events April

- 2 Apr (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) 1000 OVC
- 11 Apr ((Mon) PAC Meeting, 1100 Sam Sned's
- 14 Apr (Thu) Tripler AMC Presentation 1115 Hale Ikena, Fort Shafter
- 15 Apr (Fri) EXCOM Meeting 1115 MCBH O'Club

### Coming Events May

- 7 May (Sat) The Users Group (TUG) 1000 OVC
- 20 May (Fri) EXCOM Meeting 1115 MCBH O'Club
- 29 May (Sun) Natatorium Memorial Ceremony 1000
- 30 May (Mon) Punchbowl Memorial Ceremony 0830
- 30 May (Mon) HI State Veterans' Cemetery, Kaneohe Memorial Ceremony 1300



President's Perspective by LtCol Tom Smyth USMC (Ret)

Aloha. Could someone tell me what is happening to the federal budget, this year or next year? Just returned from a non-MOAA trip to DC that included discussions of the federal money problems with senior administration officials and they certainly don't know. Even congressional staff we spoke with felt it was just day-to-day as very short term Continuing Resolutions painfully pass. So with those uncertainties our DC MOAA staff is just trying to ensure that the severe DOD pay and benefit cuts that have been tossed around don't go too far. Watch closely and respond to our legislators if it looks like cuts will hit us unequally.

Closer to home here in Hawaii, our Governor, Mayors, legislators and council members face similar uncertainty. This is partly due to the indecision in Washington which carries down to state and city officials around the country.

We have been closely monitoring about 50 pieces of local legislation, about half still moving towards legislative adjournment 5 May. Most bills to raise taxes or cut programs are moving through internal deadlines, as they usually do, so we really won't have much to report until next month.

Many are concerned with a potential "pension tax." Be assured we have taken a strong position on these bills and as this is written one measure, HB1092 is still moving along. It would tax the pensions of those with federally adjusted gross income over some limit, currently \$100,000 for singles; \$200,000 for couples. Just how the taxable portion would be determined is still uncertain. As bad as that is, it is far better than the much lower threshold initially proposed by the Governor.

Other more favorable bills are still in play. They include the Interstate Education Compact for military kids; Gold Star Family license plates; special military liaison fund to coordinate military support activities; state family leave for employees to help prepare for deployment; allowing NG personnel to use "tasers" on disaster relief missions; smoothing overseas voting procedures; and several items related to additional veteran's centers and expansion of state veteran cemeteries. We will keep you posted.

Semper Fi, Tom

HAWAII STATE CHAPTER of the MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA New Membership Application and/or Current Member Dues Payment

Name: Last First MI Male Female

New Member Application Currently a Regular Member Currently an Auxiliary Member

New members: Complete next items and Regular or Auxiliary Member section. Enter remittance at bottom.

Current members: Complete any items that have changed and enter your remittance amount at bottom of form.

Address: Email:

Date of birth: National MOAA membership No.

Home Phone: Office Phone: Fax

If married, spouse's first name: Last name, if different than yours:

Regular Members: Active duty, retired, or former military officers are eligible for regular membership.

Service Rank Active Duty Retired Reserve National Guard Former Officer

Dues: \$18 per year; 5 years for \$72. Life membership: Age 50 and under, \$360; 51-60 \$300; 61-70 \$270;

Auxiliary Members: Widows or widowers are eligible for membership whose spouses were regular members or were eligible for regular membership. Rank of spouse: Service of spouse:

Dues: \$12 per year; 5 years for \$48; Life membership: Age 50 and under, \$180; 51-60 \$150; 61-70 \$120; 71-89 \$60; 90 and older is free.

Indicate interest in any of the following Chapter activities or Committees:

Personal Affairs LAVA Public Affairs Program/Social Newsletter Membership Finance Fund Raising J/ROTC Scholarships and Awards Community Service TUG(Computers) Party Bridge Golf Tennis

Dues Enclosed \$ Optional Donation: Scholarships \$ Community Services \$

Total Remittance: \$ Check to Hawaii State Chapter MOAA, PO Box 1185, Kailua HI 96734-1185

**- - CHAPTER SOCIAL EVENTS - -**

**THIS MONTH — APRIL 14 at 1115  
Tripler Army Medical Center Presentation  
at Ft. Shafter - Hale Ikena**

**MAY**

**Bishop Museum (tentative)**

**JUNE (tentative)**

**25th Infantry Unit back from Afghanistan  
Nehelani Banquet Center - Schofield**

**JULY — No Event**

**AUGUST 14 (tentative) @1200  
Annual MOAA Picnic - Bellows AFS Beach**

**Thinning of the Ranks**

**COL. Shepler W. FitzGerald, Jr. USA (Ret.)** passed away on 8 March. A graduate of the U. S. Military Academy and George Washington University. He was an avid hunter and skeet shooter winning gold medals in the Aloha State Games. He is survived by daughters Suzanne Betz and Lynn FitzGerald, step-children, and grandchildren.  
**CDR Allyn R. Thompson, USN (Ret.)** died on 10 March and was inurned at Punchbowl National Cemetery on 21 March. Survived by stepson Robert Story, stepdaughters Susan Mattingly and Carol Short and brother Robert H. Predeceased by husband and MOAA member Captain Grant Story, USN (Ret). CDR Thompson, an early career WAVE Officer was a role model and helped pave the way for future generations of WAVE Officers.

**Binnacle List**

**LTC Joseph "Jay" Blanchard, Jr., USA (Ret)  
Capt Glen Van Ingen, USAF (Ret)  
COL Frank Slocum, USA (Ret)**

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Opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily Hawaii State Chapter policy.

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**What You Already Know - Coat of Living Going UP**

Inflation rose 0.5% for the second month in a row and now stands at plus 0.94% for the year, making a COLA raise in 2012 almost certain - but it won't be much.



## 2011 ALL CHAPTER DONATIONS

AS OF 22 MARCH 2011 - TOTAL GOAL IS \$7000

Received to date \$2,605 (Scholarships and Community Service)

### DIAMOND CONTRIBUTORS (\$1,000 or MORE)

Clara G. Cook, Phillip Heyenga

### PLATINUM CONTRIBUTORS (\$500 to \$1,000)

None

### GOLD CONTRIBUTORS (\$100 TO \$499)

Constance McQuillan, Myrl K. Noggle,

### SILVER CONTRIBUTORS (\$50 TO \$99)

Jerry East, Jack Miller, Ellen McGarry, Tom Smyth

### BRONZE CONTRIBUTORS (\$25 TO \$49)

Kathleen Brown, Bill Moore, Mary Ceccarelli

If you donated in any of these categories in 2011 and your name is not present call me, Geoff Bangs 261-1455

## Government Shutdown and You

*(From MOAA Legislative Update 3-25-2011)*

Almost five full months after the start of FY2011, legislators continue to battle over the FY2011 budget. In the interim, the government has been kept running through a series of short-term continuing resolutions.

The current resolution expires on April 8, which has federal agencies preparing for a possible government shutdown if legislators of both parties can't bridge the huge gulf between their proposals for federal spending cuts.

The last federal shutdown happened in FY1996 during the Clinton administration. It lasted 21 days and caused some 284,000 federal employees to be furloughed.

The President, presidential appointees, members of Congress, certain legislative branch employees, military people, and federal employees deemed "excepted" aren't subject to a furlough. "Excepted" employees are required to work during a shutdown because they're protecting life or property or performing other essential functions.

What exactly will happen in the event of a shutdown? Unfortunately, most federal agencies are being very coy about releasing that information.

Social Security: Checks for current eligibles will continue, but processing of new applications will likely be suspended.

Military and federal civilian retired pay, survivor annuities: DFAS and the Office of Personnel Management won't give specific answers, but we believe checks to current beneficiaries will continue. The Social Security answer raises at least some question whether new retired pay and survivor accounts would be started.

VA disability compensation and survivor benefits: The VA isn't talking on the subject. But a 2008 Congressional Research Service report said during previous shutdowns "multiple services [for veterans] were curtailed, ranging from health and welfare to finance and travel."

Pay for active duty military and drilling Guard/Reserve members: Again, DFAS won't give a straight answer. We know the troops will still be on duty. But some media reports have indicated they won't be paid if the shutdown encompasses a payday. When MOAA contacted DoD for confirmation, we were told an official release has not been issued by the Secretary of Defense.

Government services: During the 1996 shutdown, national parks were closed, passport applications weren't processed, toxic waste cleanups were stopped, and many federal contractors weren't paid, among other things.

One more thing: after previous shutdowns, pay was approved retroactively for the furloughed employees.

MOAA thinks it's indefensible that government agencies refuse to tell worried employees and citizens what will happen to federal compensation and other programs in the event of a shutdown.

We'll let you draw your own conclusions whether budget brinkmanship politics make it convenient to give the impression that consequences might be even more severe than many expect.

**SCAM WARNING - New Group Mimics VA to Target Veterans**

The Department of Veterans Affairs is warning veterans to guard against Veterans Affairs Services, an organization not affiliated with the VA in any way. Via websites, e-mail and phone calls, this group is attempting to collect personal information such as Social Security Numbers.

**TRICARE Mail-order Prescriptions Promoted**

The TRICARE Management Activity (TMA) recently issued notice alerting beneficiaries that TRICARE Pharmacy Home Delivery allows beneficiaries to save time and spend less money by delivering maintenance medications safely and securely to their home through the U.S. mail. In calendar year 2010 TRICARE home delivery of prescriptions increased by more than 12 percent. Home delivery is especially useful for beneficiaries with prescriptions they need to take on a regular basis - maintenance medications. These medications are used to treat illnesses such as diabetes, asthma and high blood pressure. If beneficiaries need immediate relief from a pain medication or antibiotics, they should have their prescription filled at a military treatment facility or retail network pharmacy.

Pharmacy home delivery also features an automatic prescription refill option to ensure beneficiaries are always supplied with the medications they need and checks medical and prescription history to avoid harmful drug interactions. A phone line is available 24/7 to speak directly to a pharmacist. TRICARE retail network pharmacies fill prescriptions with a 30-day supply. Home delivery fills prescriptions for the same copayment, but for 90 days. Home delivery costs beneficiaries \$3 for a 90-day supply for generic formulary medications and \$9 for a 90-day supply for formulary brand-name medications. TRICARE beneficiaries switching to pharmacy home delivery from retail pharmacies in 2010 saved 66 percent on their copayments, up to \$176 a year for a non-formulary prescription. They also saved taxpayers \$30.7 million. To sign up for pharmacy home delivery or to learn more about the program, go to [www.tricare.mil/homedelivery](http://www.tricare.mil/homedelivery) or call the Member Choice Center toll free at 1-877-363-1303.



**MOAA Hawaii State Chapter Luncheon**  
**HALE IKENA CLUB, FORT SHAFTER**

**Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 11:15 AM**  
**LUNCH FOLLOWED BY GUEST SPEAKERS**  
**ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT TRIPLER**

**PRESENTERS:**  
**CHIEF MANAGED CARE DIVISION, LTC TIM BERGERSON**  
**TRICARE/TriWest EXPERT, MS. TERRI CLOUD**

**LUNCH BUFFET, SALAD, TWO ENTREES,**  
**DINNER ROLLS, RICE OR POTATOES,**  
**VEGETABLE, PLUS DESERT , HOT TEA OR COFFEE.**

**COME AND ENJOY! COST: \$18.00 PER PERSON**

**Please respond Not Later Than 10 APRIL**

**----- CUT AND MAIL -----**

**YES \_\_\_\_\_ I (WE) PLAN TO ATTEND**

**NAME TAG(S) TO READ \_\_\_\_\_**

**ENCLOSED CHECK FOR:**

**Luncheon \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Scholarship fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Community Service \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: HAWAII STATE CHAPTER – MOAA**

**MAIL TO: P.O. Box 1185, Kailua, HI 96734-1185**

**e-mail [GebhardJim@aol.com](mailto:GebhardJim@aol.com)**



## TUG by Colonel Lou Torraca USAF (Retired)

Finally! The much anticipated and always welcome last list from the 2011 CES running of the nerds. A half-dozen goodies that caught my eye, made me stop and look and decide to add to my growing list...no, I did not save the best for last...too trite to mention...just six I had not used in my previous 2 lists...and, to satisfy a critic...my only one it seems, something for you iPad devotees...really, u will love it!

**GENESIS** The new Genesis, just announced by Lexmark, is about the coolest-looking business device since the MacBook Air. Even better, it's powerful and efficient. It's also exceptionally simple to use, and satisfyingly accessible when it comes to more complicated scanning and printing requirements, like multiple images on one page. In case you can't tell from the photo, what's new about the

Genesis is that it stands vertically, as opposed to horizontally as other printers do. So when you want to copy or scan a document, you lift the front of the case forward and drop the paper in. Inside the machine is a 10-megapixel camera sensor which enables the machine to scan much faster than most scanners and printers. Lexmark's claim, borne out in our tests, is that it transfers "from document to digital" in about three seconds – it's not unusual to wait a minute or more for this to occur with most printers. There's no automatic page feeder, please note, which is about the worst you can say about the Genesis. If you're familiar with scanning documents you'll know the most time-consuming and deeply frustrating part of the process is finding you've positioned the original in just-not-quite the right place, and you only discover this when the scanning is finished. Here, the camera sensor puts an image of what you'll get onto the color display on the front of the printer. So you know instantly if you're in the right place and can adjust accordingly.

**LOGITECH REVUE** This is for all u who want access to everything, everywhere! It's TV that's all yours. With Logitech Revue, what you're into is what's on. Enter your favorite actor and get what they're doing on TV, the Web, Twitter and more. Watch the game and your fantasy draft at the same time. Add the controller that fits your style. TV with lots of possibilities means TV that you make your own Google TV in a box. Logitech Revue comes with an easy-to-set-up companion box and an intuitive companion keyboard controller. Simply connect your TV and cable or satellite set-top box via HDMI and your high speed Internet connection via Ethernet or Wi-Fi to the Logitech Revue, and you've got Google TV. Future ready Your TV can be the TV of the future, and it will only get better. Logitech Revue is a companion to your TV and not a TV itself, so it can be easily updated. Plus Google TV is an open platform, with developers creating more apps and functionality for release this year, so your TV will do more as Google TV does more. Built-in expandability A growing selection of accessories means a growing Logitech Revue experience. From video cameras that let you share your TV watching experience to a smartphone app that gives you full control over your entire entertainment experience from your phone, your Logitech Revue has room to do more. Apps for your TV With Logitech Revue, you get apps created just for your TV, including Netflix®, NBA.TV and Pandora®. And with apps for your TV available in the Android™ Market later this year, there's no telling what your TV will be able to do. Not your average keyboard The keyboard controller that's included lets you find your shows, surf the Web, or turn up the volume. By combining a compact keyboard, a touchpad, and a remote in a sleek, living room-worthy design, Logitech Revue gives you full wireless control over all your entertainment without leaving the couch. Wired and wireless To make sure your content is streaming as fast as possible, Logitech Revue comes with your choice of Ethernet or fast 802.11 b/g/n Wi-Fi, so you can get high-quality audio and video with whichever one works best for your setup.

**POCKET eDGe** is the world's smallest dualbook-this is really neat. 7" tablet on one side, for Android apps like web browsing, audio recording, and games. A 6" reader on the other side, for glare-free reading and stylus handwriting. Beautifully connected. Seamlessly integrated. And more than twice as functional as a reader or tablet alone. Dimensions: 5.5" x 7.5" x 1.0" closed, 11.0" x 7.5" x 0.5" open. Weight: 1.35 lb Tablet screen: 7.0" WXGA (800x480) Tablet input: Resistive touch (use finger or stylus on screen), optical finger pad. Reader screen: 6.0" e-Ink® (800x600), 16 shades of gray Reader input: Stylus (Wacom Penabled®). Operating system: Linux® with Google® Android™ Internal memory: 3GB Connectivity: Wi-Fi™ 802.11 b/g, Bluetooth® capability, Ethernet-to-USB adapter available. Screen Rotation: 90 and 180 degrees (tablet), 180 degrees (reader) Reader file formats: ePub, PDF. Tablet video formats: 3GP, MP4, Adobe Flash Lite® (H.264), AVI (DivX or Xvid encoded), MOV, WMV Tablet audio formats: MP3, WAV, 3GPP, MP4, AAC, OGG, M4A. Keyboard: Virtual keyboard on tablet screen or connect your own by USB MicroSD card slot Standard USB port Mini-USB port with mini-USB-to-USB cable included. Battery life: up to 6 hours, or up to 11 hours using only the reader screen Camera: 2 megapixel with video capability Built-in microphone Built-in stereo speakers, 3.5mm headphone/headset jack (TRRS)

**AISLE 411** is an easier way to shop...shoppers, man your carts...this one is for u! Search: Just the way you want it in-store. Quick, simple and intuitive results with one search. Each search lets you map it, add to list, share, or even edit the location. Offers: We'll inform you of deals you can find in-store; we call them Informational Offers. Some stores offer Digital coupons that you can "clip" to your shopper loyalty card. Then scan your shopper loyalty, and get savings off your bill. Shopping Lists: Save a generic list, or manage lists by specific store. With aisle411, items are organized by aisle and section. You can also map your List(with stores that provide them) and use aisle411's unique interactive map to guide you through the store while you shop. Or, share your list via SMS or email. Reviews: Once you find what you're after, you can scan barcodes (iPhone app only) and get product reviews served up from Amazon.com. Even tap and speak the UPC number and we'll pull review results if available.

**JUST MOBILE**...here u go...if u have an iPad, u must have this! Wanna experience the stylish stylus for iPad? Just Mobile AluPen™ is a chunky pencil-shaped stylus with a soft rubber nib that sits perfectly in the hand to make drawing and writing a uniquely smooth experience.

**ANTI-SLEEP PILOT** - Break at the right time...depending on your driving routine, this may be an absolute must to have. Tiredness causes one in every five road traffic accidents. We all experience tiredness occasionally when driving. The longer we drive the greater the risk of feeling tired as we drive. Tiredness and driving are a lethal combination, responsible for around 20% of all road traffic accidents. Anti Sleep Pilot adapts to you and your driving. The Anti Sleep Pilot adapts itself to you and your driving. It can be used by anyone because it is customized for each individual driver and driving situation. A single device will work for a variety of drivers and installs in all cars, irrespective of make or model. It has been carefully designed so as to provide a subtle interaction with the driver, avoiding unnecessary distraction.

**Now**, if u had a pilot I would know you would still be awake so I can tell you that's it, have fun, be careful and we will see u next time. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/363qew> after 1 April for the full version and [www.the-tug.org](http://www.the-tug.org) for mtg info.

Aloha, *Lou*

## Koga's Zero - An Enemy Plane that saved American Lives *(Cont'd from Page 1)*

at a time when the need was great and lead to air combat success over the Zero's previously thought air superiority..

A classic example of the Koga plane's value occurred on April 1, 1943, when Ken Walsh, a Marine flying an F4U Chance-Vought Corsair over the Russell Islands southeast of Bougainville, encountered a lone Zero. "I turned toward him, planning a deflection shot, but before I could get on him, he rolled, putting his plane right under my tail and within range. I had been told the Zero was extremely maneuverable, but if I hadn't seen how swiftly his plane flipped onto my tail, I wouldn't have believed it," Walsh recently recalled.

I remembered briefings that resulted from test flights of Koga's Zero on how to escape from a following Zero. With that lone Zero on my tail I did a split S, and with its nose down and full throttle my Corsair picked up speed fast. I wanted at least 240 knots, preferably 260. Then, as prescribed, I rolled hard right. As I did this and continued my dive, tracers from the Zero zinged past my plane's belly.

From information that came from Koga's Zero, I knew the Zero rolled more slowly to the right than to the left. If I hadn't known which way to turn or roll, I'd have probably rolled to my left. If I had done that, the Zero would likely have turned with me, locked on, and had me. I used that maneuver a number of times to get away from Zeros.

By war's end, Captain (later Lt. Col.) Kenneth Walsh had twenty-one aerial victories (seventeen Zeros, three Vals, one Pete), making him the war's fourth-ranking Marine Corps ace. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for two extremely courageous air battles he fought over the Solomon Islands in his Corsair during August 1943. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1962 after more than twenty-eight years of service. Walsh holds the Distinguished Flying

Cross with six Gold Stars, the Air Medal with fourteen Gold Stars, and more than a dozen other medals and honors.

How important was our acquisition of Koga's Zero? Masatake Okumiya, who survived more air-sea battles than any other Japanese naval officer, was aboard the Ryujo when Koga made his last flight. He later co-authored two classic books, *Zero* and *Midway*. Okumiya has written that the Allies' acquisition of Koga's Zero was "no less serious than the Japanese defeat at Midway and did much to hasten our final defeat." If that doesn't convince you, ask Ken Walsh.

Jim Rearden, a forty-seven-year resident of Alaska, is the author of fourteen books and more than five hundred magazine articles, mostly about Alaska. Among his books is *Koga's Zero: The Fighter That Changed World War II*, which can be purchased for \$12.95 plus \$4.00 for postage and handling from Pictorial Histories Publishing Company, 713 South Third Street West, Missoula, MT 59801.

THE ZERO WAS JAPAN'S MAIN FIGHTER PLANE THROUGHOUT WORLD War II. By war's end about 11,500 Zeros had been produced in five main variants. In March 1939, when the prototype Zero was rolled out, Japan was in some ways still so backward that the plane had to be hauled by oxcart from the Mitsubishi factory twenty-nine miles to the airfield where it flew. It represented a great leap in technology.

At the start of World War II, some countries' fighters were open cockpit, fabric-covered biplanes. A low-wing all-metal monoplane carrier fighter, predecessor to the Zero, had been adopted by the Japanese in the mid-1930s, while the U.S. Navy's standard fighter was still a biplane. But the world took little notice of Japan's advanced military aircraft, so the Zero came as a great shock to Americans at Pearl Harbor and afterward.

A COMBINATION OF nimbleness and simplicity gave it fighting qualities that no Allied plane could match. Lightness, simplicity, ease of maintenance, sensitivity to controls, and extreme maneuverability were the main elements that the designer Jiro Horikoshi built into the Zero. The

Model flown by Koga weighed 5,500 lbs, including fuel, ammunition, and pilot, while U.S. fighters weighed 7,500 lbs and up. Early models had no protective armor or self-sealing fuel tanks, although these were standard features on U.S. fighters.

Despite its large-diameter 940-hp radial engine, the Zero had one of the slimmest silhouettes of any World War II fighter. The maximum speed of Koga's Zero was 326 mph at 16,000 feet, not especially fast for a 1942 fighter. But high speed wasn't the reason for the Zero's great combat record. Agility was. Its large ailerons gave it great maneuverability at low speeds. It could even outmaneuver the famed British Spitfire. Advanced U.S. fighters produced toward the war's end still couldn't turn with the Zero, but they were faster and could out-climb and out-dive it.

Without self-sealing fuel tanks, the Zero was easily flamed when hit in any of its three wing and fuselage tanks or its droppable belly tank. And without protective armor, its pilot was vulnerable.

In 1941 the Zero's range of 1,675 nautical miles (1,930 statute miles) was one of the wonders of the aviation world. No other fighter plane had ever routinely flown such a distance. Saburo Sakai, Japan's highest-scoring surviving World War II ace, with sixty-four kills, believes that if the Zero had not been developed, Japan "would not have decided to start the war." Other Japanese authorities echo this opinion, and the confidence it reflects was not, in the beginning at least, misplaced.

Today the Zero is one of the rarest of all major fighter planes of World War II. Only sixteen complete and assembled examples are known to exist. Of these, only two are flyable: one owned by Planes of Fame, in Chino, California, and the other by the Confederate Air Force, in Midland, Texas.

An interesting postscript. The Zero was almost a direct copy of the Hughes Aircraft H-1 designed and built by Howard Hughes in 1937. Hughes set a transcontinental non-stop speed record in the plane from LA to New York (2,456 miles) in just over 7 hours.

Hughes tried to sell it to the US Army Air Force but they rejected the design. The Japanese designer of the Mitsubishi Zero strongly refuted allegations of the Hughes H-1 influencing the design of the Japanese Zero but you need only look at the two aircraft to see the connection. The H-1 and the Zero are almost identical twins and share almost identical stats. ~

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14 April 1115 Lunch Event, Hale Ikena, Ft Shafter  
Tripler Army Medical Center Presentation / Q&A  
**Please reserve your place before 10 April**  
See flyer on Page 5

**Lieutenant General  
Thomas Matthew Rienzi  
USA  
1919-2010**

