



James Scott to Talk About Jimmy Doolittle Raid

By Jack Sparacino

Get ready for a real treat. James Scott is coming to the Beaufort Library on June 25 to talk about his highly acclaimed new book, *Target Tokyo*. Mr. Scott brings award winning credentials to town. He is a former Nieman Fellow at Harvard and the author of *The War Below* and *The Attack on the Liberty*, which won the coveted Rear Admiral Samuel Eliot Morison Award.

High praise for *Target Tokyo* has been pouring in, and no wonder. As Pat Conroy noted on the book's front cover, "Epic... one of the most incredible accounts of American military valor I've ever read." Multiple reviewers from *The Wall Street Journal* to the *Los Angeles Times*

have also weighed in early with their extremely complimentary remarks, along with dozens of customers including several sons of the Doolittle raiders.

With this latest effort, *Target Tokyo* vaults Mr. Scott into the upper echelons of naval if not all historians and American storytellers. While many readers have seen assorted, typically brief references to Jimmy Doolittle's earthshaking raid on Tokyo in April of 1942,

Target Tokyo

brilliantly chronicles the entire sequence of events in a compelling narrative, from the agonies of Pearl Harbor through the post-war trials of Japanese war criminals that alternately gratified and stunned the world with their unheralded and unjustified leniency. Through it all, the heroism of Doolittle and his 79 fellow raiders radiates like a blast furnace.

Scott quickly demonstrates his soaring literary skills in portraying an America that was caught asleep at the switch at Pearl, but one whose government, military and public were ripe for a dramatic counterattack against Japan. As Scott makes clear, FDR, along with bombastic Chief of Naval Operations Ernest King, affable Commanding General of the U.S. Army Air Forces Henry "Hap" Arnold and their senior staff were eager to begin planning for a high profile assault on Japan's evil war machine headquartered in Tokyo. The goal was to convince Japan, as their own naval chief Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto had warned repeatedly, that in attacking the United States they had picked a fight with *precisely the wrong opponent*. Once the broad outline of the effort to attack Tokyo directly crystalized, it was clear that the leader of such a starkly dangerous and high profile mission had to be cut from extraordinary cloth. Fortunately for the Allies then and all Americans today, that person stood ready to launch his team into history: brilliant, feisty Lieutenant Colonel Jimmy Doolittle.

Every ounce of Doolittle's towering aeronautical and leadership skills, packed

