Thirty Seconds over Tokyo

in memorium

March 10, 1945

FC 84
Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo
The Doolittle Raid

The Air War
• April 18, 1942 – Doolittle raiders bomb Tokyo, taking off from USS Hornet, approximately 700 miles off the Japanese coast

• Led by Lt. Col. Jimmy Doolittle

• A little “shock and awe” air campaign
The N.Y. World Telegram
"A Dose of His Own Medicine"

The N.Y. Sun
"A Taste of His Own Medicine"
Doolittle pilots in China
Air power

Allied forces developed doctrines of urban aerial bombardment as key to waging total war

British General “Bomber” Harris – planned the fire bombing of Dresden

U.S. Gen. Curtis LeMay – planned aerial campaigns against Tokyo, went on to head the Strategic Air Command
US Air campaign

Bombing started in earnest in 1944
Needed Pacific island bases for bombers
Mockups of Japanese cities built in the US southwest for bombing practices
Invention of napalm – intended for burning wooden cities
American bombings 1944-45

• Over 130 Japanese cities intensively bombed

• Massive evacuations of urban civilian population

• Culminated in the fire bombing of Tokyo March 10, 1945

• Casualty estimates run as high as 150,000 people in a single night

•Raids planned to maximize damage and terror to civilian population
Kanto region
Aftermath of March 10 raids
Aftermath of March 10 raids
up to 150,000 casualties
The Ultimate Shock and Awe

Hiroshima, Aug 6

Nagasaki, Aug 9

V-J Day, Aug 15