

= William G. Farrow =

William Glover Farrow (24 September 1918 ? 15 October 1942) was a lieutenant in the United States Army Air Corps who participated in the Doolittle Raid . Born to Isaac and Jessie Farrow , he graduated from high school in 1935 and attended the University of South Carolina . Farrow joined the Air Corps training program in November 1940 , and was commissioned in July 1941 . In February 1942 , he volunteered to participate in the Doolittle Raid , which took place in April of that year . Farrow was captured by the Japanese after the completion of his bombing mission . He was tried and , along with two other crew members , sentenced to death and executed by firing squad . His ashes were recovered and interred in the Arlington National Cemetery in 1946 , and he posthumously received multiple awards .

= = Early life = =

William Farrow was born in Darlington , South Carolina , on 24 September 1918 . His father Isaac was employed at a cigarette company in Raleigh , North Carolina ; his mother Jessie , born in 1897 , was the daughter of a wealthy tobacco warehouse owner . At age sixteen , William became an Eagle Scout . He graduated from St. John 's High School in May 1935 , and went on to attend the University of South Carolina .

During the fall of 1939 , he received his pilot training at the Hawthorne School of Aeronautics in Orangeburg , South Carolina . On 23 November 1940 , Farrow joined the United States Army Air Corps ' Aviation Cadet Program . In July of the following year , he obtained his aviator badge and a commission as a second lieutenant at Kelly Field in Texas . Following his completion of the B @-@ 25 Mitchell training program , he was sent to Pendleton Field in Oregon as a member of the 34th Bomb Squadron .

= = Doolittle Raid = =

In February 1942 , following the squadron 's transfer to Columbia Army Air Base in January , Farrow volunteered to participate in the Doolittle Raid , an attempt to retaliate against the Japanese as a result of their attack on Pearl Harbor . At the time , however , the mission was secret and its target unknown to the volunteers . On 1 April 1942 , after training in various places around the United States , the crews and their respective aircraft departed from San Francisco aboard the USS Hornet (CV @-@ 8) . The mission took place on 18 April . The B @-@ 25 which Farrow piloted , named Bat out of Hell , was the sixteenth and final aircraft to depart from the Hornet . After the aircraft 's targets in Nagoya , which included an oil tank and aircraft factory , had been bombed , Farrow intended to land in Chuchow . However , the Japanese had deactivated the beacon that Farrow was using for direction .

= = Capture and death = =

Sixteen hours after departure from the Hornet , the aircraft 's fuel exhausted , Farrow and his crew bailed out near Japanese @-@ controlled Nanchang , China . The Japanese captured Farrow and all members of his crew , and subjected them to imprisonment , interrogation , and torture . The men were subsequently tried and sentenced to death . Most of the crew members ' sentences were commuted to life imprisonment by the Emperor of Japan , but the sentences of three men , including Farrow , stood . The night before their execution , the men were permitted to write final letters . The International Red Cross was to mail the letters after receiving them from the Japanese . The Japanese , however , did not pass on the letters , and they were never mailed . Farrow wrote letters to his mother and to a friend , Lt. Ivan Ferguson . In the letter addressed to his mother , Farrow wrote :

You have given much , so much more to me than I have returned , but such is the Christian way . You are and always will be a real angel . Be brave and strong for my sake . I love you , Mom , from

the depths of a full heart ... Don 't let this get you down . Just remember God will make everything right and that I 'll see you all again in the hereafter ... So let me implore you to keep your chin up . Be brave and strong for my sake . P.S. My insurance policy is in my bag in a small tent in Columbia . Read Thanatopsis by Bryant if you want to know how I am taking this . My faith in God is complete , so I am unafraid .

At dawn on 15 October , the men were taken to a public cemetery near Shanghai , where they were shot by a Japanese firing squad . Following the bodies ' cremation , the ashes were taken to a mortuary . After the war ended , the men 's ashes were recovered and their letters found in a secret file of the War Ministry Building in Tokyo . In 1946 , Farrow was interred with honors at the Arlington National Cemetery , Section 12 , Grave 157 .

= = Honors = =

Farrow was posthumously given multiple awards . These included the Order of the Sacred Tripod (???) of the Republic of China , the Distinguished Flying Cross , and the Purple Heart . He was also awarded the Prisoner of War Medal , which , by authorization of Congress in 1985 , was given to all members of the United States Armed Forces who had been a prisoner of war after 5 April 1917 .