

Wade McClusky: The Unsung Arbiter of the Pacific War

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Nearly half a year ago, while browsing Youtube, we came across a documentary of the Battle of Midway. With interesting visuals and captivating narration, it was very well produced. It was also incredibly informative on Midway itself. This documentary piqued our interest about the topic, and the Pacific theater of World War II in general. Doing some light reading on this topic, we found a pilot by the name of Wade C. McClusky, who essentially decided the fate of the battle, but whose tale is largely untold across many modern recounts of the battle. Furthermore, this research uncovered the true grandiose nature of McClusky's decision, one that undeniably impacted not only the Battle of Midway but the entire Pacific theater.

To truly dive into Midway, we used multiple databases, including Gale and Encyclopaedia Britannica. Afterwards, we continued to conduct research on Midway, starting with an overview of the battle, and progressing to a specific timeline of the happenings of that day. We retrieved images and quotes from archives such as the National Diet Library, Library of Congress, and the National Archives to get a deep understanding of our topic. In addition, we also read and analyzed the book, *Wade McClusky and the Battle of Midway*, by David Rigby. This book provided us with information about Wade McClusky's incredible predicament at Midway, the reasons why he made his decision to search further, and discussed his later experiences as a senior advisor in the Korean War. This source was incredibly useful to further our research.

We chose to make a website because of our past experiences in web development. While making our website, we leveraged the power of graphic design software, using it to further enhance each primary source image, through color correction and stabilization. In addition to the simple image edits, we also composed primary source quote blocks and banners using Canva. As

for the website's front-end, we custom coded the entire site using a typical web stack: HTML, CSS, and Javascript, allowing for an easy time hosting on Github.

During the research process, we learned of the incredible uphill battle that the American forces at Midway faced. The American forces suffered a numerical disadvantage, inferior skill, and inexperienced crew. If it weren't for McClusky's brave decision that led to the victory at Midway, the Pacific War would have dragged on for much longer, and taken many more lives. The victory achieved at Midway changed the balance of the Pacific and many lives in the area. Wade McClusky's decision, and at a larger scale, the victory at the Battle of Midway brought about an end to Japanese advancement in the Pacific, and single-handedly shortened the length of war. Nearly 80 years after the battle, its effects are still noticed all around the Pacific today, as it forever reshaped global politics in the region. Making this website and expressing a traditionally untold tale was incredible. Through our website, we hope the viewer can appreciate the untold heroism of Wade McClusky.

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