

September 30, 2016

Mr. Bill O'Reilly
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Dear Mr. O'Reilly:

Congratulations on another great book, "Killing the Rising Sun." An informative and most interesting read. Knowing your well deserved reputation for historical accuracy, I would like to bring the following to your attention which I found in the course of reading your book:

Page 139. It was Secretary of War, Henry Stimson who originally and adamantly told General Leslie Groves, over his objections to remove Kyoto from the target list. Going over Stimson's head, Groves went to Truman and tried to have Kyoto put back on the target list. Truman answered by expressing his support for Stimson's order for the removal.

Reference: "On Active Service In Peace And War." Henry L Stimson & George McBundy, 1947-48, page 625.

"Henry L Stimson: The First Wise Man." David F Schmitz. 2001, pages 182, 188, 189.

Page 167. Paul Tibbets acted as the personal pilot of Dwight Eisenhower and Mark Clark. He did this on several occasions while serving in Europe. His association with Patton was while they were both stationed at Fort Benning GA, in 1938. Tibbets did on occasion fly Patton around Fort Benning during tank maneuvers, but not as his personal pilot in Europe.

Reference: "Return of the Enola Gay." Paul W Tibbets. 1998, pages 55-61, 101-112.

Page 171. The back up plane for the Enola Gay which stood on standby at Iwo Jima was Big Stink, not Top Secret. The confusion is caused by the fact that the crew of Top Secret was assigned to fly Big Stink as backup. Switching crews from one aircraft to another was a common practice. I refer you to the website, www.atomicheritage.org. There under Oral Histories you will find the video of Jack Widowsky who was the navigator on Top Secret and again on Big Stink when it went to Iwo Jima as the backup plane. Also on this website are the interviews of other crew members of both missions.

Page 225. Captain James Van Pelt, not 2nd Lt. Fred Olivi was the navigator of Bockscar. Fred was classified as second co-pilot or observer. Please see enclosed photographs. In one you see Tibbets congratulating Sweeney upon his return from Nagasaki with Van Pelt on his left.. The other is of Olivi as co-pilot.

Page 226. The meeting with Doolittle did not occur as per the description in the book. I have enclosed a copy of Dick Ashworth's description of the Nagasaki mission from beginning to end. Pages 78-79

describe in detail his recollection of how it happened. This is a copy of a draft which he later used in his autobiography.

Thank you for your time and a great book.

Sincerely yours

Joseph Papalia
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