

# AWESOME STORIES

## VISUAL VOCABULARY BUILDER

### UNBROKEN

#### *THE STORY OF LOUIS ZAMPERINI*

aerial / annihilated / dissolute / emaciated / flak / reconciliation  
semblance / strafing / traumatized / undulating

# Aerial\* - occurring in the air

- Aerial – adjective  
Fighting over a fish, three eagles engage in aerial battle.
- Aerial – noun  
An aerial, such as a radio antenna, often extends high into the air.
- Aerial – adjective  
Aerial fighting could cause the eagles to lose their disputed prey.
- Aerially – adverb  
Aerially conducting battle requires the eagles to stay focused.

## \* Aerial – See Chapter 5 (B-24's in Combat)

- Note – Photo by Jose Fernandez of eagles above Homer, Alaska. The picture received honorable mention in National Geographic's 2008 International Photo Contest. Copyright, Jose Fernandez, all rights reserved. Provided here as fair use for educational purposes.



# Annihilated\* - (1) to utterly destroy; (2) to completely defeat

- Annihilated – verb (first meaning)  
Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor annihilated the USS *Arizona* on December 7, 1941.
- Annihilation - noun (first meaning)  
Japan's military might threatened its neighbors with annihilation if those countries did not surrender.
- Annihilating – adjective (second meaning)  
Hitler's annihilating agenda threatened all of Europe.
- Annihilatory – adjective (second meaning)  
An annihilatory conflict threatened the South Pacific.



\* Annihilated – See Chapter 10 (Naoetsu and Camp B-4)

# Dissolute\* - (1) indifferent to moral restraints; (2) self-indulgent

- Dissolute – adjective (first meaning)  
Jan Steen, a Dutch artist, interpreted a family's indifference to moral restraints in a painting he called *The Dissolute Household*.
- Dissolutely – adverb (first meaning)  
The people depicted in Steen's painting are dissolutely living their lives.
- Dissoluteness – noun (second meaning)  
Dissoluteness is the mark of a self-indulgent person.



## \*Dissolute – See Chapter 3 (Louie Goes to War)

- **Note** – Jan Steen created this painting between 1663-64. It is currently maintained by – and on display at – New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art.

# Emaciated\* - physically wasting away; to make feeble

- Emaciated – adjective  
Four Dutch soldiers, serving in WWII, became emaciated prisoners of war.
- Emaciating – adjective  
With their emaciating bodies, POWs became very weak.
- Emaciation – noun  
Emaciation was a common feature in POW camps.
- Emaciated – verb  
These Dutch POWs were emaciated by an illness known as Beriberi.



\* Emaciated – See Chapter 1 (Story Preface)

- **Note** - Australian War Memorial Photo – Number Poo761.011 (Public Domain).

# Flak\* - (1) anti-aircraft guns; the shells from such guns; (2) criticism; opposition

- Flak – adjective (first meaning)  
Using tree branches to conceal their 88 mm flak gun, Germans on the Eastern Front were aiming to shoot-down Allied planes.
- Flak – noun (first meaning)  
Flak - shot from guns like the 88mm used by Germany - downed thousands of planes during WWII.
- Flak – noun (second meaning)  
The leader caught flak for his many bad decisions.

\*Flak – See Chapter 5 (B-24's in Combat)

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# Reconciliation\* - (1) forgiveness, after major differences; (2) process of finding a way (if possible) to understanding / forgiving

- Reconciliation – noun (first meaning)  
A Statue of Reconciliation – depicting two former enemies forgiving each other – stands in the new St. Michael's Cathedral in Coventry, England.
- Reconciled – verb (first meaning)  
The people of Coventry reconciled with Germany when they commissioned a statue depicting two former enemies forgiving each other.
- Reconciliatory – adjective (second meaning)  
Reconciliatory actions are difficult to undertake when one side has been greatly damaged by another.

\*Reconciliation – See Chapter 13 (Forgiveness)



- NOTE: Coventry's Statue of Reconciliation is by Josefina de Vasconcellos. Photo by Rebecca Kennison. License to use the image: CC BY-SA 3.0

# Semblance\* - (1) when an outward appearance differs from reality; (2) bearing a resemblance

- Semblance – noun (first meaning)  
After a chaotic day, he was able to maintain some semblance of order in the workshop.
- Semblance – noun (second meaning)  
Dr. Martin Luther King did everything he could to achieve some semblance of justice for African-Americans.
- Semblance - noun (first meaning)  
There wasn't a semblance of truth to anything the camp commandant said.



\*Semblance – See Chapter 8 (Kwajalein – Execution Island)

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# Strafing\* - firing cannon, or machine-gun fire, from low-flying planes

- Strafing – adjective  
German planes, called “Stukas,” caused heavy damage when their crews flew strafing missions against ground-based targets.
- Strafed – verb  
When Stukas strafed their targets, the loss of life was usually significant.



\*Strafing – See Chapter 5 (B-24's in Combat)

Traumatized\* - (1) intense psychological reaction to a very bad event; (2) an incident causing severe physical injury

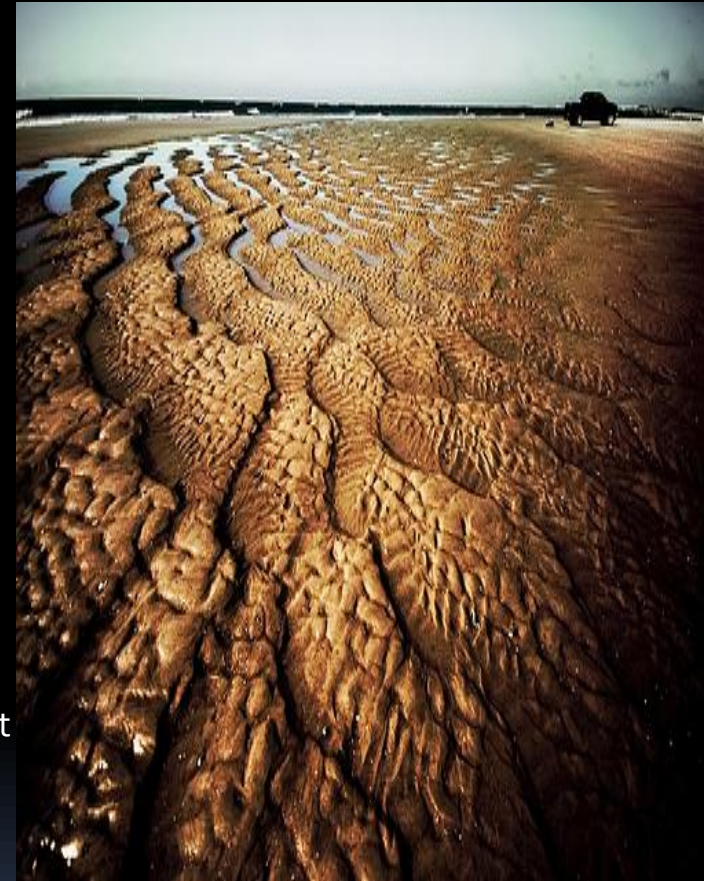
- Traumatized – verb  
Prisoners of war, who sustained severe injuries, were even more traumatized by the inhuman conditions they endured at POW camps (like the one at Omori, Japan).
- Traumatizing – adjective (second meaning)  
Traumatizing events occurred frequently in POW camps where prisoners were routinely beaten by their captors.



\*Traumatized – See Chapter 1 (Story Preface)

# Undulating\* - (1) to move like a wave; (2) forming a wavy appearance

- Undulate – verb – (first meaning):  
As we left the harbor, the boat began to move up and down as it undulated like the waves all around us.
- Undulating – adjective – (second meaning):  
After the tide went out, the sand bore the marks of undulating water which had imprinted the ocean floor.
- Undulations – noun – (second meaning):  
Undulations of land, in hilly areas, produce a wave-like effect on dry ground.



\*Undulating – See Chapter 10 (Naoetsu and Camp B-4)

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