

0. ZAMP and HIS SUPER MAN B-24 - Story Preface

1. ZAMPERINI and the 1936 OLYMPICS

2. LOUIE GOES TO WAR

3. ZAMP and HIS SUPER MAN B-24

4. B-24s IN COMBAT

5. SUPER MAN ATTACKS - FUNAFUTI and NAURU

6. A GREEN HORNET and GREY SHARKS

7. KWAJALEIN - EXECUTION ISLAND

8. PRISON CAMPS - OFUNA and OMORI

9. NAOETSU and CAMP B-4

10. THE BIRD - THEN AND LATER

11. WHEN LOUIE MET BILLY

12. FORGIVENESS



Zamp and his crewmates were assigned to a B-24 F which they named "Super Man."

Zamp wanted to be a B-17 crew member, but he didn't get his wish. Instead, he was assigned to a heavy bomber known as the B-24. As far as Louie was concerned, it wasn't a good choice.

Some famous men flew B-24s. Jimmy Stewart, already a popular actor before Pearl Harbor, joined the war as a private, in 1941. By the time the war was over, in 1945, Stewart was a Colonel who had flown many combat missions, piloting B-24s.

The B-24 - which was built in San Diego and various other factories, including Ford's plant in Willow Run - wasn't just big and heavy, it was unwieldy. One pilot wrote:

...it was like sitting on the front porch and flying the house. (Unbroken, page 59.)

In May of 1943, *Popular Science* devoted a significant part of its magazine (Vol. 142, No. 5) to the war effort, focusing - among other things - on the B-24 Liberator. Walking readers through its production process, one of the authors (Andrew R. Boone) notes:

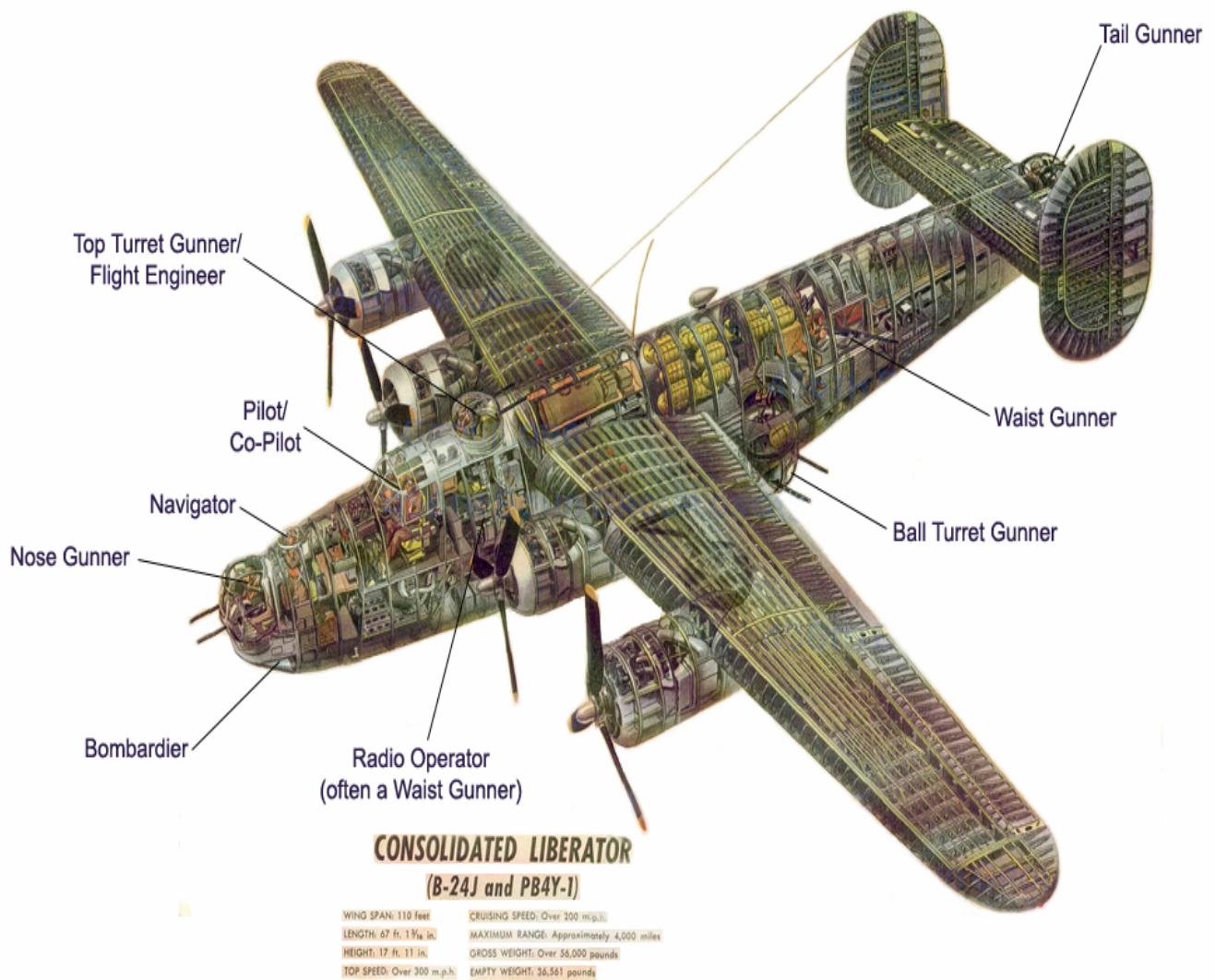
She isn't much to look at... (Popular Science, May 1943, page 86.)

Boone continues:

No one, not even her makers at the Consolidated plant in California, where she was born, is proud of her appearance. She looks fat and awkward indeed, and sits squat on an airfield, with husky .50 caliber machine guns sticking like pin-feathers from her nose, belly, back, sides, and tail.

But don't let her seeming clumsiness fool you. She's one of the deadliest and most devastating weapons ever created by the hand of man; with that quality her builders - and, more important, the men who fly her - are tremendously satisfied, for she carries a heavier bomb load than any other ship of her class. (Popular Science, May 1943, page 86.)

Maybe ... but not all airmen who flew Liberators would have used such glowing comments to describe the B-24. Many of them referred to it as "The Flying Coffin."



Zamp, assigned as a bombardier, was part of a crew of ten. His pilot - Lt. Russell Allen Phillips, whom everyone called "Phil" - was a quiet man from Indiana.

Louie's position, on the plane, was below the nose. It was a vulnerable place to be.

Zamperini and his crew mates called their B-24F "Super Man" (see *Devil at My Heels*, page 124). It took them on some pretty remarkable journeys.

What was it like to be on board a B-24 during a bomb run? How did Liberators perform when enemy fire tried to force them out of the sky?

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/ZAMP-and-HIS-SUPER-MAN-B-24-Unbroken-Louis-Zamperini-Story>

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/ZAMP-and-HIS-SUPER-MAN-B-24-Unbroken-Louis-Zamperini-Story>

Questions 2 Ponder

When Does Flattery Attempt to Hide the Truth?

During WWII, a bomber known as the B-24 Liberator had a bad reputation. One pilot said that flying one of those planes "was like sitting on the front porch and flying the house."

Even articles about the B-24, which acknowledged her deficits, tended to end with glowing comments:

But don't let her seeming clumsiness fool you. She's one of the deadliest and most devastating weapons ever created by the hand of man; with that quality her builders - and, more important, the men who fly her - are tremendously satisfied, for she carries a heavier bomb load than any other ship of her class.

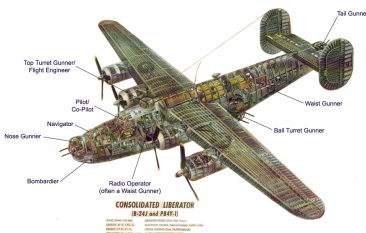
In the real world, not the literary world, airmen sometimes referred to B-24s as “The Flying Coffin.”

Do you think articles, like the one quoted above, tended to use flattery and glowing comments to mask the truth about the dangers of flying a B-24? Why, or why not?

Have you ever encountered a situation where flattery, or glowing comments, led you to believe something about an issue which wasn't true? Explain your answer.

How does flattery attempt to hide the truth?

Media Stream



Layout of B-24

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/>



B-24s - Production at Willow Run

Image of B-24 production line, at the Ford plant in Willow Run, by the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Photo online, courtesy U.S. Air Force.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/B-24s-Production-at-Willow-Run>



Russell Allen Phillips - Pilot of Super Man

Image online, courtesy the Phillips family.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Russell-Allen-Phillips-Pilot-of-Super-Man>



Super Man - B-24 - Zamperini as Bombardier

Photo online, courtesy Louis Zamperini. See, also, [Laura Hillenbrand's web site](#) for her #1 Bestseller, *Unbroken*.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Super-Man-B-24-Zamperini-as-Bombardier>



Flying Coffin - Nickname for B-24s

Photo online, courtesy U.S. National Archives.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Flying-Coffin-Nickname-for-B-24s>



ZAMP and HIS SUPER MAN B-24

View this asset at: <http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/>