Oct 25th, XXXX

Description

To me, this day is once of great significance. Early in my blogging, I responded to the voice saying â€œFind out what day Paul Carr died.â€• If you have been a long time reader here, youâ€™ll see his name is displayed many times across the last 4 years and a month. The journey to discover the story of that man led me down a path to the day, independent of the year, and I have found several amazing military historical events tied to this day across several centuries.



The most significant connection in my process of discovery was the manner in which Paul Henry Carr ended his life. Selfless, on mission, and disregarding the cost, as there was a larger picture to serve than just himself, in the agony he must have been suffering from physically.He lost his life in MT 52 of the USS SAMUEL B ROBERTS (DE-413) at the last major naval battle in history this day in 1944.Dick Rohde, a radioman was there too. He allowed me to sit for an afternoon and ask about the battle. CAPT Amos T. Hathaway, USN (Ret) was at that battle. He became my professor at The Citadel for Computer Science, and I never took the time to sit and ask why he woare a ribbon for a Navy Cross when I had the opportunity across at least an entire semester. Lesson learned â€“ Talk to them when you can, for one day thay will be ghosts and the story of their lives is now other peopleâ€™s memories, at best.



In researching another incredible story of heroism, I found out that Cpl Desmond T. Doss, US Army

was on the beach at Leyte Gulf, and may have been stranded from support and defeated in detail, had Taffy 3 not charged into battle, against incredible odds, with essentially no hope of survival. LCDR Evans was one such man,

and his legacy was, as with Paul Carr and Desmond Doss, dedication to the mission above self. My connection to Desmond Doss? While a third grader, son of a civil servant, we took a family walk through the nearby sugar cane field to be told the story of a brave man, while standing over the small granite monument to his courage on the Meada Escarpment on Okinawa. I also missed meeting Desmond Doss. He passed away March 23rd, 2006.

When did this conscious trip into history begin? October, 1988. Not exactly then, as I was completing turn over as XO from Tom Brown, but over the next 18 months, as I found information in the USS CARRâ€™s (FFG-52) files and took the time to read the battle reports of a time 44 years earlier, I became engaged in the story.

I became more engaged in the larger picture 10 years ago today, as Dr Powers, at First Baptist Church in Norfolk, VA, talked of a man named Jonah, who paid to run from his destiny, both in cold hard cash and with his person for three days. I got it. My life has not been my own since that sermon.

October 25th is a significant day in history.

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Category

1. Navy

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