



Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

MANCH, JACOB EARLE '38 "Jack" "Shorty"

Lieutenant Colonel Jack Manch, USAF, died 24 March 1958 near Las Vegas, NV.

Appointed Second Lieutenant Infantry Reserve, May 10, 1940. Enlisted as Flying Cadet on February 10, 1941 and graduated from Advanced Flying School, Stockton, California, with rating as pilot in September 1941.

Manch flew as co-pilot for one of Doolittle's sixteen B-25s that flew from the carrier *Hornet* in April of 1942 to make the first American bombing raid on Tokyo in World War II, just four months after the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor. Bailing out over China, Manch and all but one of his crew made it back to American lines. He finished the war flying "The Hump," as did **Tom Roller, '36**. He was married to Lee Mathis Manch, who died on 29 October 2003.

When Chinese troops entered the war against South Korea in 195X, Manch was in the Chosin Reservoir as a liaison officer. After the Americans fought their way to the coast, Manch was transferred to Japan where Lee joined him. While on this and other assignments, Jack and Lee became close to General Doolittle, Chuck Yeager, Jackie Cochran, Wayne Newton, Bing Crosby, Bob Hope, Sammy Snead and other luminaries.

In 1958, Jack was stationed at Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada teaching young officers to fly jets. When his T-33 flamed out over Las Vegas, Shorty ordered his student to parachute while he stayed with the plane to guide it away from inhabited areas; but when he did jump, he was too close to the ground for his chute to open. Shorty was 39. His decorations

include Distinguished Flying Cross, Soldier's Medal, and the Chinese Army, Navy, and Air Corps Medal, Class A, 1st Grade.

Jack's name was honored in many ways, including the dedication of Manch Elementary School in Las Vegas and the Manch Room at the Shenandoah Valley Airport.

Jack was the son of **Major Martin G. Manch**, AMA's bandmaster and German teacher. His older brother, **Martin G. Manch Jr. '35** is also an AMA graduate.

Manch attended Augusta for four years: Captain, Band; Boxing, Swimming, Football, Basketball, Monogram Club; Orchestra, Glee Club; Cotillion Club.

(1996 September *Bayonet*)