

*The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute
in Central Oregon presents:*

Attack on Yamamoto

Thursday, June 12, 2:00 p.m.

Forum Room, Touchmark, 19800 SW Touchmark Way, Bend



April 18, 1943 dawned hot and miserable in Guadalcanal. Events of that day are forever remembered in Central Oregon with each crossing of the Rex T. Barber Memorial Bridge over Crooked River Gorge north of Terrebonne. Isoroku Yamamoto was no stranger to the United States. He had attended Harvard University and was later a naval attaché in Washington D.C. He returned to Japan, learned to fly and was a strong airpower advocate, rising as a natural leader to command the Japanese Combined Fleet in 1939.



Late 1940, Rex T. Barber, a young Central Oregon native, had joined the Army Air Corps. In 1941 as his ship steamed toward Hawaii, the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. His unit moved to Guadalcanal in December 1942. The stage was set. The true story of that "million-to-one" Army Air Forces mission to destroy the leader of the surprise attack on Pearl Harbor is now told in the words and pictures of the men who flew it. Their story was released by the Oregon producer, Matthew E. Simek on April 18th, 2008, the 65th anniversary of the attack. OLLI is honored to present this production.