

Pearl Harbor – a Day of Infamy

Dave Gretton is the chairman of Trent Valley Aviation Society, who speaks on a number of aviation related subjects. He opened by saying that Hollywood usually gets things wrong, but the film “Tora Tora Tora” despite a few aircraft howlers, was very accurate to the sequence of events.

He then presented an analysis of Japan’s history long before the attack on Pearl Harbor to establish a motive. This was complex but Dave’s analysis set the scene for the attack that commenced at 7.55 am on Sunday December 7th 1941. The sequence of events was unfolded with maps, illustrations and analysis, followed by a discussion of the aftermath.

Dave argued that although the attack was a stunning success it was not nearly the knock-out blow that it could have been. Pearl Harbor would have been put out of action for many months if the Japanese aircraft had attacked the shore fuel storage installations, and they could have caused a lot more damage if they had attacked when the American aircraft carriers had been in harbour.

Dave was thanked for his presentation, which was the result of some wonderful research and analysis.

Tony Jarram