



materially to the success of an epic strike in which all capital ships of the enemy Fleet at Kure were sunk or damaged."

Little more than a month after the attack on Kure, Leslie's squadron led a massive airborne procession over the formal surrender of Japan on September 2, 1945 aboard the USS Missouri, anchored in Tokyo Bay.

For several years after the war, Leslie worked as a flight instructor at Pensacola. He served in the Korean War from 1952-1953, and after discharge worked as a crop-duster in the Central Valley town of Kerman, west of Fresno. He spent most of that second career flying an old friend, the Stearman Bi-Wing.

He and Audrey moved to Tuolumne County in 1985. They were married for 62 years until her death last year from cancer.



The pilots of Torpedo Squadron One: John Leslie is in the left vertical row, second down; his friend Bob Houghton is shown in the bottom row, second from the right. At center is a TBF Avenger on a training run over the island of Maui; above, John Leslie in a TBF cockpit; and to the right, his Navy Cross citation. Photos courtesy of John Leslie