



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

INTERNET: <http://www.atlantawwiroundtable.org>

VOL. 29 No. 10

290th MEETING

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Contributor(s) To This

Newsletter

* Thomas Kimmel

* Jesse Beck

* Pete Mecca / Joe Jordan

* Bob Rivers / Jay Lenny

* Emily Carley / Martin Madert

Elected Officers 2014-2015

Interim Commander – Pete Mecca

Tel: 770-354-9697

Interim Deputy Commander - Deborah

Lindsay; Tel: 770-426-7545

Adjutant – John Kovach

Finance Officer- Jay Lenny

Dep. Finance Ofc: Guy Condra

Sgt.-at-Arms – Bob Rivers (Capt.)

Sgt.-at-Arms - Bill Shepherd

Sgt.-at-Arms – Joe Jordan

Sgt.-at-Arms – Mike Koesters

Sr. Chaplain – Carl Espy

Chaplain Emeritus – Harold A. Dye

Asst. Chaplain – Elaine Rivers

APPOINTMENTS

Hank Frampton - Asst. Commander

Pete Mecca – Program Chairman

Joe Jordan – Aide-to-Commander(s)

Date: JUNE 18th, 2015 (THURSDAY) >>>> Next Meeting SEPT. 17th

Time: Social Half-Hour: **11:00 AM - 11:30 AM** > **MEETING START TIME 11:30 AM** - Speaker Immediately Following Lunch

** PETITE AUBERGE RESTAURANT

2935 N. Druid Hills Road, Web Site: www.petiteauberge.com

Atlanta, Georgia 30329 (Restaurant Phone: 404-634-6268)

Price: \$ 15.00 Per Plate ** NO RESERVATION REQUIRED **

Speaker: Thomas Kimmel

Subject: “The Story Within the Pearl Harbor Story”

Mission Statement

We, who by our own actions, and by our heritage, know that liberty has not, is not, nor ever will be free, do in association with our friends and comrades, who believe as we do, pledge that we will meet at the call of our Commander no less than ten times a year:

*** To hear of the war experiences of our members and invited guests**

*** To encourage and demonstrate pride in our country and its armed forces**

*** To pass on to posterity our knowledge of World War II, and of the price - human and material - that was paid by our nation for the preservation of liberty in the United States and the world**

((Meeting Attendance For The May 21st, 2015 Meeting: ± 92))

Speaker for JUNE 18th, 2015–Thomas Kimmel - (To Be Introduced By Pete Mecca)

The JUNE 18th, 2015 (THURSDAY) Meeting of the *Atlanta WWII Round Table* will feature Thomas Kimmel as our speaker. Thomas Kimmel is a graduate of the US Naval Academy, former Special Agent of the FBI and grandson of Admiral Husband E. Kimmel, Commander of the Pacific Fleet on 7 December 1941.

Admiral Kimmel was, says Thomas shamelessly scapegoated, reduced in rank, and disgraced after the Japanese attack. Kimmel comes from a family of distinguished scholars and government servants dedicated to protecting America, so Tom found it particularly troubling that his grandfather was accused from the well of the House of Representatives for having failed to prevent both WWII and the Cold War.

Tom has devoted years of his life to the study of the topic, and uses these speaking opportunities to respond to the allegations. Tom Kimmel served on three warships during the Vietnam War and attended John Marshall Law School before beginning his FBI career in 1973. He served the FBI and the nation with distinction for 25 years, investigating organized crime in Cleveland, serving on the House Appropriations Committee Surveys and Investigations Staff at CIA Headquarters, and ending his FBI career as Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Philadelphia Division, heading the Foreign Counterintelligence and Terrorism Programs during the first attack on the World Trade Center in 1993.

Since retiring, Tom has served, as well as in other capacities, as a consultant to the Bureau on major spy scandals at both the FBI and the CIA.

Please welcome Thomas Kimmel as our **JUNE 18th, 2015** speaker (290th Meeting.)

Review Of MAY 21st, 2015 Speaker- Jesse Beck (Introduced by Sergeant-At-Arms Captain- Bob Rivers)

Jesse Beck, our MAY 21st, 2015 speaker gallantly tried to enlist in the military when he was 16. The recruiting Officer told him he as too young, and just prior to his High School graduation, he was drafted into the U.S. Army in May 1944. His initial training was as a Combat Engineer, being assigned to the 2nd Engineering Battalion, a Battalion that had been doing intensive training of recruits for WW II since August 1942.

The history of the *2nd Engineer Battalion* had its beginning on 3 August 1861 when it was organized from one existing company and 3 new companies of Engineer soldiers. In 1939 the *1st Battalion, 2nd Engineer Regiment* was reorganized and redesignated the *2nd Engineer Battalion (Combat)*. These Engineer soldiers fought as a unit during he Civil War, and WW I. Just prior to WW II, their new home became Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, TX. The Battalion became a part of the new streamlined *2nd Infantry Division* and was again redesignated the *2nd Engineer Combat Battalion* on 1 August 1942. These Engineers, as in previous wars, were always prepared to fight as infantry at a moments notice

Beck was given only a weeks training in mine detection before he was sent into Combat at the *Battle of the Bulge*.

Several new surprises that the Combat Engineers discovered were how ingenious the

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Germans had been in their development of Land Mines. These Mines included the *Toff*, *Regal* and *Glasmine 43*, which in some cases had little or no metal parts in them and thus were almost impossible to locate with a metal detector. One such Mine was the new German Glass Mines, called *The Glasmine 43*, of which the Germans made 11 million between 1944 and 1945; the mines were unique in that the entire body was made from glass. Aside from being less detectable these mines, due to the fine glass particles and shards left in the flesh of whomever was unlucky enough to step on the device or be near one when it exploded, were undetectable by the contemporary XRay machines.

Beck's Engineer Battalion operated principally during the *Battles of the Bulge* and the *Hürtgen Forest* engaging in such tasks as laying *Barbed-Wire*, Bridge (mobile, floating, fixed), rail, & road construction, maintenance and construction/demolition; Mine warfare (laying and removing/diffusing); Establishing & maintaining supply/ammunition dumps and always to function as infantry when and where needed. Although these Combat Engineers were under constant threat from the Germans, Beck said he was privileged to be part of the *2nd Engineer Battalion* at his young age, noting that in comparison, infantrymen had the ordeals of living with knee-high snow, mud, rain and extreme cold temperatures 24 hours-a-day.

The *2nd Engineer Battalion* wasn't able to get across the Rhine River at Ramagen but finally crossed the Ruhr River at Sinzig and eventually met up with the 69th Infantry Division at the River Elbe to greet the Russians.

Thank-You Jesse Beck for your service during the *Battles of the Bulge* and *Hürtgen Forest*, your service in Korea and Vietnam, for Preserving History with us on May 21st, and for a job well done.



SPECIAL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS / OF SPECIAL INTEREST & UPCOMING EVENTS

>>> **(REMINDER) IMMEDIATE - WITNESS-TO-WAR ORGANIZATION AND ATLANTA WW II ROUND TABLE**

– I am pleased to announce that the *Witness-To-War Organization* and The Atlanta WW II Round Table have agreed to work closely together as our organizations continue to evolve in 2014-2015. *Witness-To-War Foundation* Director Emily Carley was authorized by her CEO, Tom Beaty, to offer their video and audio recording services at each of our meetings. Emily Carley or Video Specialist Martin Madert will now be recording the Round Table meetings. Veterans from all services and all conflicts are asked to sign-up with Emily or Martin and provide them with their oral histories. These interviews can be done at their extensive studios in Norcross. WTW can also arrange to come to a veteran's home to conduct an interview. You can contact Emily or Martin at our regular meetings or via email: Emily Carley's email: emily@witnessstowar.org and Martin's: seb@witnessstowar.org or by calling Emily at 770-481-3018.

>>> **(NEW) OFFICERS ELECTED FOR THE SEPTEMBER 2015 THROUGH JUNE 2016 CAMPAIGN** are:

Commander – Pete Mecca; **Deputy Commander** – Deborah Lindsay; **Adjutant** – John Kovach; **Finance Officer** – Jay Lenny; **Deputy Finance Officer** – Guy Condra; **Sergeant-At-Arms Captain** – Bob Rivers; **Sergeant-At-Arms Team Members** Bill Shepherd and Mike Koesters; **Senior Chaplain** – Carl Espy; **Assistant Chaplain** – Elaine Rivers; **Chaplain Emeritus** – General Harold Dye

>>> **(NEW) - ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE - DAY CELEBRATION - SUNDAY, JULY 5th** - Rock Springs Church, 219 Rock Springs Rd., Milner, GA 30257. (www.rockspringsonline.com). Last year this event featured *The Oak Ridge Boys* and attracted over 20,000 visitors. This year the event will feature the *Charlie Daniels Band* and they will incorporate a special service during the 8:30 AM and 11 AM church services to specifically honor WWII Vets. No reservations are needed by WW II veterans but it is suggested you contact Ms. Abbey Shiflett, Special Research Assistant to Dr. Benny Tate, prior to the event for seating arrangements at the Rock Springs Church, 219 Rock Springs Rd., Milner GA 30257 / Telephone 770-229-8663

>>> **(REMINDER) ALL FUTURE MEETINGS** – Senior Chaplain Carl Espy requested at the Executive Board Meeting in August to inform the membership that his door is always open to all members, at any time, to be updated on any member who is ill, infirmed at home, hospitalized or unable to attend regular meetings due to health issues. Chaplin Espy would like to be informed of the member's name and address and telephone number and he will attempt to keep in-touch with the families of seriously ill members. Carl can be reached at 770-698-0027 or via email at cespyjr@comcast.net.

>>> **(UPDATED) UPCOMING SPEAKERS for – JUNE 2015 – SEPTEMBER 2015** – Deputy Commander and Program Chairman Pete Mecca has lined-up some impressive speakers for us for our 2015 campaign: February 21st – Annual February Banquet (Saturday) – **June 18th – Thomas Kimmel – Grandson of Admiral Kimmel – Commander-in-chief US Pacific Fleet / Pearl Harbor Commander**; Sept. 17th - State Senator Hunter Hill, a veterans advocate and graduate of West Point.

Please note that the speaker's engagements are subject to change. Thank-You Pete for taking on this very difficult endeavor and for your continuing efforts to seek-out and engage excellent speakers for our meetings. Should any member have a suggestion or lead for Pete relative to a qualified Speaker, please contact him 770-354-9697 or via email at aveteransstory@gmail.com.



Monthly Quote:

The American people did not know then that the president and his top military advisors in Washington had been intercepting Japanese secret messages for many months, and that as General Wedemeyer, Chief Consultant to General George Marshall and an important member of the War Planning Board has said, "These messages had finally indicated the time, the place, and the character of the Pearl Harbor attack, days in advance of December 7," Neither did the American people know then that this dreadful and important information had been deliberately withheld from the men who were most entitled to know it, namely, the top commanders of the United States Army and Navy forces in Hawaii.

"My belief is that General Short and I were not given the information available in Washington and were not informed of the impending attack because it was feared that action in Hawaii might deter the Japanese from making the attack. Our president had repeatedly assured the American people that the United States would not enter the war unless we were attacked. The Japanese attack on the fleet would put the United States in the war with the full support of the American public."

Excerpts from "An Interview with Admiral Kimmel"

From *The Journal of Historical Review*, Winter 1991 by Dean Clarence Manion

Atlanta WW II Round Table Members – Please remember that there will be NO scheduled meetings of the Round Table in July or August. Our next scheduled meeting will be on September 17th (Thursday), 2015 – at the Petite Au Berge – Meeting start time 11:30 AM