



## THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRE SERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 30 No. 10 300<sup>th</sup> MEETING

**Editor:** John E. Kovach

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**Contributor(s)** To This

Newsletter

\* Dr. Lester Tenney

\* Thomas Kimmel

\* Pete Mecca / Jay Lenny

\* Deborah Lindsay / Bob Rivers

\* Emily Carley / Martin Madert

**Elected Officers 2015-2016**

**Commander** – Pete Mecca

Tel: 770-354-9697

**Deputy Commander** – Deborah

Lindsay; Tel: 770-310-1775

**Adjutant** – John Kovach

**Finance Officer**- Jay Lenny

Dep. Finance Ofc: Guy Condra

**Sgt.-at-Arms** – Bob Rivers (Capt.)

Sgt.-at-Arms - Ralph Lehr

Sgt.-at-Arms – Mike Koesters

**Sr. Chaplain** – Pat Buchanan

Chaplain Emeritus - Carl Espy, Jr.

Asst. Chaplain - Elaine Rivers

**APPOINTMENTS 2015-2016**

Hank Frampton - Asst. Commander

Joe Jordan - Aide-to-Commander(s)

**Date:** JUNE 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (THURSDAY) >>>> Next Meeting SEPT. 15<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** Social Half-Hour: 11:30 AM – 12:00 NOON > MEETING START TIME 12:00 NOON - Speaker Immediately Following Lunch

\*\* PETITE AUBERGE RESTAURANT

2935 N. Druid Hills Road, Web Site: [www.petiteauberge.com](http://www.petiteauberge.com)  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329 (Restaurant Phone: 404-634-6268)

**Price:** \$ 20.00 Per Plate \*\* NO RESERVATION REQUIRED \*\*

**Speaker(s):** Dr. Lester Tenney

**Subject:** “The 192nd Tank Battalion, Company B & “My Hitch In Hell””

### 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 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Meeting: ± 90 ))

**Speaker for JUNE 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016– - Dr. Lester Tenney (To Be Introduced By Commander Mecca )**

The JUNE 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (THURSDAY) Meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table will feature Dr. Lester Tenney as our speaker.

When WWII erupted, Lester Tenney served as a radio operator staff sergeant and later as a 192<sup>nd</sup> tank commander in the Philippine Islands. When his commanding officer surrendered forces on Bataan, Tenney endured the infamous *Bataan Death March*, survived transport to Japan on a Hell Ship, and slaved in a Japanese coal mine for almost four years as a Japanese POW. He chronicles his miserable years and savage mistreatment in his memoir, *My Hitch in Hell*.

His amazing story, similar to the experience of Olympian Louis Zamperini, related in Laura Hillenbrand’s *Unbroken*, does not end with the successful conclusion of the war. Tenney spent eighteen months undergoing numerous surgeries to correct war- and prison camp-related injuries; obtaining not only his bachelor’s and master’s degrees, but a doctorate in finance and insurance from the University of Southern California; and writing books about financial planning.

Yet, his work to remedy the atrocities committed by the Japanese against the American POWs and to facilitate an appropriate resolution to the profits made by the use of slave labor has brought Dr. Tenney into the forefront of the efforts to reconcile the American/Japanese relationship.

For years Tenney has led a movement to seek unpaid wages and an apology for the enslavement. “If you’re a soldier, you accept certain things,” he says. “If you’re killed, that’s part of war. But it was not part of war to put me in that coal mine and treat me the way they did. I feel I am entitled to wages I was denied.” Tenney confronted the Japanese Prime Minister to acknowledge the truth about his country’s treatment of American captives.

Dr. Tenney has been awarded many military decorations for valor, received special recognition for his role in helping his POW friends survive their experience, and succeeded in his efforts to hold the Japanese accountable for their wartime exploits.

Currently living in Carlsbad, California with his wife, Betty, who will accompany him to our June meeting, please make an effort to hear Tenney’s inspirational presentation, which will demonstrate his fierce determination to survive, his insights to human nature, and his uncanny sense of humor.

Please welcome Dr. Lester Tenney as our JUNE 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016 speaker (300<sup>th</sup> Meeting.)

**Speaker Review for MAY 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016– - Thomas Kimmel ( Introduced By Commander Mecca )**

The May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016 meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table featured Thomas Kimmel, Tom 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. Many of you will recall Tom spoke to us on June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2015; his topic at that meeting was “*The Story Within the Pearl Harbor Story*”, where he relayed to us the opinion of many historians, that Admiral Kimmel was shamelessly scapegoated, reduced in rank, and disgraced after the Japanese attack on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941.

Tom reminded us that the Official Naval Historian, appointed by both Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, to write the Official History of the U.S. Navy, Samuel Elliot Morrison, wrote that history in several volumes; the third volume was *The Rising Sun In The Pacific*, written in 1948. At that time Morrison was very

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unfavorable to Admiral Kimmel in his review of the events of December 7<sup>th</sup>. However in 1961 Morrison had a complete investigative 'epiphany', and in a article in the Saturday Evening Post, admitted that Admiral Kimmel was no more blamable for that event then any number of Military Officers in Washington, D.C. including ( and particularly ) Vice-Admiral Richmond Kelly Turner, the Director of the Naval War Planning Department.

Also implicated as having staggeringly questionable judgment at the time were Admiral Wilkinson, Director of the Office of Naval Intelligence; General Sherman Miles, Chief of the Military Intelligence Division; General Leonard Gerow, Director of the War Plans Division; Admiral H.R. Stark, Head of Naval Operations; and General George Marshall, U.S. Army Chief of Staff.

Tom was crystal-clear in bringing up the question(s) about 'MAGIC', the Codeword for the secret American decoding of Japanese Diplomatic (*Purple*) and Spy (*J-19*) Communications and that if those in Washington did not give the decipher code(s) to anyone at Pearl Harbor, why? No one in the Navy, Army nor any Representative of the State Department on the island of Hawaii had the decipher code-breaking reports. Was this intentional? No one has answers to these questions to-date.

Tom re-examined why no one at Pearl Harbor had the code to decipher the Japanese Naval signals that those in Washington were reported to have, with the strategic exception of J. Edgar Hoover, the Director of the FBI and William Donovan (Wild-Bill), Director of the *OSS* and predecessor to the *CIA*. Many think Roosevelt, General Marshall and others in Washington deliberately withheld the decipher code from Admiral Kimmel and General Short including master researcher and Pulitzer Prize-winning historian John Toland author of *Infamy: Pearl Harbor and its Aftermath* and author Robert Stinnett, who served in the U.S. Navy with distinction during World War II and Wrote *Day Of Deceit: The Truth About FDR and Pearl Harbor*.

Thank-You Thomas Kimmel for your diligence in pursuing the restoration of Admiral Kimmel's status, honor, name and reputation, for preserving history, and for a job well done.

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**SPECIAL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS / OF SPECIAL INTEREST & UPCOMING EVENTS**

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>>> **(NEW) ATLANTA WW II ROUND TABLE – ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR THE 2016-2017**

**CAMPAIGN** "Because of a Bylaw-Technicality, the report of the Nominating Committee for 2016/2017 Atlanta WW II Round Table Officers was declared valid. Accordingly the elections of Officers for 2016/2017 will have to be redone after a report is given by a new Nominating Committee, which will be appointed by the Executive Committee. Fletcher Thompson, Bob Snapp and Fred Vickers, all past Commanders, served on both Committees. This violated the Bylaw(s) which states a member of the Executive Committee may not be appointed to the Nominating Committee. A new Nominating Committee must be formed and elections can take place after its report is given (probably in September or October 2016). Because the Bylaws provide that all Officers serve until their successor is elected, there will be no change of Officers until September or October 2016."

>>> **(NEW) JUNE 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – LIVING HISTORY DAY – VETERANS OF THE MIGHTY EIGHT** - A presentation dedicated to the Veterans of the Mighty Eight - Albert McMahan, B-17 Tail Gunner - Henry Hughey , B-17 Ball Turret Gunner – Moderator Lt. Col. Brent Bracewell / Admission: \$ 10.00 - Free for CAFmembers & Active duty military. For additional info about this event please visit the Commemorative Air Force Website at [www.dixiewing.org](http://www.dixiewing.org) or call the CAF at (678) 364-1110

>>> **(UPDATED) AIR FORCE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION - Georgia Chapter - MEETING REMINDER**

The Georgia Chapter of the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Historical Association is meets monthly at Clairmont Place, 2100 Clairmont Lake Decatur. GA, 30033 (Across the street from the VA hospital on Clairmont Road). This Association meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, their next scheduled meetings will on July 9<sup>th</sup> and August 13<sup>th</sup>. Please call Brent Bracewell for additional information at 678-416-5749 or email him at [brent.bracewell@yahoo.com](mailto:brent.bracewell@yahoo.com) or email the Organizations Secretary Marc Feit at [marcfeit@bellsouth.net](mailto:marcfeit@bellsouth.net) to confirm the time and date of their next scheduled meeting.

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

**TABLE** – I am pleased to announce that the *Witness-To-War. Org* 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](mailto:emily@witnessstowar.org) and Martin's: [seb@witnessstowar.org](mailto:seb@witnessstowar.org) or by calling Emily at 770-481-3018.

>>> **(REMINDER) SENIOR CHAPLAIN NOTICE - ALL FUTURE MEETINGS THROUGH JUNE 2016** – Pat Buchanan has accepted the position as *Interim Senior Chaplain* until June 2016 at which time the RT will elect a Senior Chaplain for the 2016-2017 campaign. Chaplin Buchanan would like to be informed of any member who is ill or incapacitated and he will also attempt to keep in-touch with the families of seriously ill members. Pat can be reached at 678-772-2494 or via email at [lynnbchn@charter.net](mailto:lynnbchn@charter.net)

>>> **(UPDATED) UPCOMING SPEAKERS for – JUNE 2016** – Commander & Program Chairman Pete Mecca, with the assistance of Deputy Commander Deborah Lindsay, have lined-up some impressive speakers for us for our 2016 campaign: **June 16<sup>th</sup> – Bataan Death March Survivor - Dr. Lester Tenney.** Please note that the speaker's engagements are subject to change. Thank-You Pete and Deborah 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 or Deborah relative to a qualified Speaker, please contact Pete at 770-354-9697 or via email at [petemecca@gmail.com](mailto:petemecca@gmail.com), or Deborah at 770-426-7545 or via email at [dgl Dover@comcast.net](mailto:dgl Dover@comcast.net).

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Monthly Quote:

*"The truth is rarely in the appearance of things, we occasionally stumble over the truth but most of us pick ourselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened."*

Winston Churchill

***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 15<sup>th</sup> (Thursday), 2016 – at the Petite Au Berge – Meeting start time 11:30 AM***