



## THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 31 No. 3

303<sup>rd</sup> MEETING

**Editor:** John E. Kovach

Tel: (770) 928-4579

**Contributor(s)** To This  
Newsletter

\* Raymond (Ray) Fordyce

\* Alan Armstrong

\* Pete Mecca / Jay Lenny

\* Greg McClelland

\* Emily Carley / Martin Madert

**Elected Officers 2016-2017**

**Commander** – Pete Mecca

Tel: 770-354-9697

**Deputy Commander** – Jack Coyle

Tel: 770-788-2454

**Adjutant** – John Kovach

**Finance Officer** - Jay Lenny

**Sr. Sgt.-at-Arms** – Ralph Lehr

**Sr. Chaplain** – Elaine Rivers

**Appointments 2016-2017**

**Asst. to Commander** - Hank Frampton

**Aide-to-Commander(s)** – Joe Jordan

**Finance Assistant** – Guy Condra

**Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms** – Bob Rivers

**Asst. Sgt.-at-Arms** – Mike Koesters

**Asst. Chaplain & Sec.** Joyce Mecca

**Public Relations Director** – Jill Berry

**Media Librarian** – Ginny Koesters

**Website Monitor** – Greg McClelland

**Date:** NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (THURSDAY) >>>> *Next Meeting Dec. 15<sup>th</sup>*

**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](http://www.petiteauberge.com)  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329 (Restaurant Phone: 404-634-6268)**

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

**Speaker(s):** Raymond (Ray) Fordyce

**Subject:** - “*Contrails of the 385<sup>th</sup>*”

### 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 October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Meeting: ± 91 ))

---

**Speaker for NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Raymond (Ray) Fordyce (To Be Introduced By Commander Mecca)**

The NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (THURSDAY) Meeting of the *Atlanta WW II Round Table* will feature Ray Fordyce as our speaker.

Ray is the son of Capt. Raymond “RB” Fordyce, who served as the head of the Photographic Section of the 385<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Group, 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force, based in Great Ashfield, England during World War II. He recalls, as a child, hearing from his father stories of the monumental events that occurred during the war. Capt. Fordyce served in-theater for 40 months.

Ray developed an appreciation for tactics while a Cadet at West Point, and has developed a strong working knowledge of those employed by both sides during the air war in Europe. Ray has developed a presentation which has been given to a number of veteran's groups in the Southeast as well as at the 2015 8th Air Force Reunion in Omaha. It describes the experiences of the men of the 385th.

Ray retired from a career in management with IBM and, later, Siemens. With both companies he professionally spoke worldwide, including major product announcements to the press. He once worked as a ranch-hand in Argentina, has traveled extensively - six continents and 70 countries to date - and has three U.S. patents. He is also a pilot, an advanced-certified scuba diver and plays piano. (He even once played at a German WW2 fighter *gruppe* reunion!)

This year Ray was elected to the Cobb County Civil Service Board. Active in community affairs, animal rescue and with veteran's groups, he resides with his wife Nila, six cats and a dog in Roswell, Georgia.

The presentation is entitled, "Contrails of the 385th." It has many one-of-a-kind visuals and provides a unique portal into the experiences of the men of the 385th Bombardment Group, and the contributions they made as part of The Greatest Generation.

Please welcome Ray Fordyce as our NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 speaker (303<sup>rd</sup> Meeting.)

**Speaker Review for OCT. 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 – Alan Armstrong (Introduced By Commander Mecca)**

The OCTOBER 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (THURSDAY) Meeting of the *Atlanta WW II Round Table* featured Aviation Attorney, Author and Movie Screen Writer Alan Armstrong as our speaker.

Alan began his presentation with the preamble to President Roosevelt's famous ‘Infamy Speech’; “*Yesterday, Dec. 7, 1941 - a date which will live in infamy - the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan. The United States was at peace with that nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its government and its emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific.*”

New disclosures now indicate that as early as July 1941, Roosevelt and his military planners, with few exceptions, favored supplying China with the necessary armaments and military aircraft to attack Japan. Roosevelt, the military planners and military intelligence were convinced that Japan would not be dissuaded from its aggressive provocations of domination in the Pacific and Far East unless its power to do so was thwarted. It was deemed by General Hap Arnold and others that bombing of Japan's primary military and industrial targets would stop their aggression until

**CONTINUED ON BACK**

peace could be negotiated.

The Chinese Government approached President Roosevelt with the idea of developing a ‘Special Air Unit’ in China, a Air Force in Chinese name only, with 350 Fighters and 150 Bombers. When the proposal was made, areas of unoccupied China ( areas of China not occupied by the Japanese military )were within easy ‘striking-distance’ with our Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress and also the long-range version of the Lockheed ‘Hudson’.

Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall vetoed the idea of providing Boeing B-17 Flying Fortresses to China, Dr. Lauchlin Currie, President Roosevelt’s Aide, prevailed upon the Joint Aircraft Committee and the joint (Army/Navy) Board to provide China with sixty-six (66) Lockheed Hudson Bombers. The culmination of Dr. Currie’s efforts was the execution by President Roosevelt on July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1941 of the document entitled “*Joint Board 355 (Serial 691)*.”

The intention of Joint Board 355 was to loan the Chinese Government military aircraft and war materials as early as July 1941, prior to the attack on Pearl, with the succinct purpose of attacking Japan from China. The chief architect and proponent of this plan for a ‘Preemptive Strike’ against Japan was Captain Claire Lee Chennault, recently retired from the U.S. Air Corps and now the U.S. Technical Advisor the Chinese Air Force.

Plan JB355 never came to full fruition and on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1941 Japan was successful in their sneak attack on Pearl resulting in President Franklin D. Roosevelt Signing the Declaration of War against Japan December 8, 1941.

Thank-You Alan Armstrong for preserving history with us, enlightening us with your new disclosures, and for a job well done.



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

**>>> (UPDATED) ATTN: ROUND TABLE MEMBERS / OFFICERS / STAFF / GUESTS ALL OTHERS: PETITE AUBERGE MOVING OUT OF TOCO HILLS SHOPPING CENTER**

The Atlanta WW II Round Table is making a major change beginning in January 2017 due to the closure of the current Petite Auberge Restaurant in the Toco Hills Shopping Center on N. Druid Hills Rd. in Atlanta, which has been our meeting venue for over 13 years. The Petite is closing effective December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016, which has resulted in a decision to move our meeting venue to *The Dunwoody United Methodist Church at 1548 Mount Vernon Road in Dunwoody, GA 30338.*

**PLEASE SEE THE ENCLOSED CIRCULAR FOR DATES & TIMES OF ROUND TABLE MEETINGS IN 2017**

Please contact Commander Mecca if you have any additional feedback or suggestions at 770-354-9697



*I am pleased to announce that we have five (5) New Members who have joined us since our summer hiatus and our October 20th, 2016 Meeting*

**Veteran David A. Reynolds** – USMCR 1970-1982 Aircraft Mechanic E-7

**Veteran Gilbreth D. Aldridge** – U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps 1954-1955

**Robert W. Bradshaw** – President Central Asset Management

**Marvin O. McCord** – Pharmacist – Concord Pharmacy, Smyrna, GA. Marvin’s father served in WW II as a bombardier, his uncle served with General Patton (behind supply line.)

**Mike Moors** – Software sales

*Please welcome David, Gilbreth, Robert, Marvin and Mike as our newest members at the NOVEMBER, 17<sup>th</sup>, 2016 Meeting*



**>>>(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. 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. *Please Note that in November the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force will be meeting in Savannah, Georgia Nov. 10-13 and participating in the Veterans Day Parade in Savannah in place of their regularly 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.

**>>> (UPDATED) UPCOMING SPEAKERS for – November 2016 –March 2017**– Commander & Program Chairman Pete Mecca, with the assistance of the Program Committee, have lined-up some impressive speakers for us for our 2016-2017 campaign: **November 17<sup>th</sup> – Raymond Fordyce – Contrails of the 385th**; December 15<sup>th</sup> – John Wagon – U.S. Navy ‘*Snippets From my World War II Experiences*’.; January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – Greg McClelland – ‘*Inside Hitler’s Wolf’s Lair*’; February 16<sup>th</sup> – Gary Weller – Georgia Airborne Association – ‘*WW II Airborne Operations – Beginnings of the Army Airborne*’; March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – William ‘Billy’ McDonald - *Flying Tigers - The Wingman for Chennault*. 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 Commander Mecca at 770-354-9697 or via email at [petemecca@gmail.com](mailto:petemecca@gmail.com)



Monthly Quote:

*‘Political Correctness’ and the ‘Good Intention’ of most governments is a doctrine fostered by a delusional, illogical liberal minority, and rabidly promoted by an unscrupulous mainstream media, which holds forth the proposition that it is entirely possible to pick up a turd by the clean end.*

Attributed to Texas A&M University Press