



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE
PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 31 No. 8

308th MEETING

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Contributor(s) To This

Newsletter

* Vis Kimenis

* William (Billy) McDonald

* Pete Mecca / Jay Lenny

* Brent Bracewell / Marc Feit

* Emily Carley / Martin Madert

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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

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Date: APRIL 20th, 2017 (THURSDAY) >> *Next Meeting MAY 16th (TUES.)*

Time: Social Half-Hour: **10:45 AM – 11:15 AM** > **BUFFET LINE OPENS AT 11:15 AM – MEETING START TIME 11:45 AM – 12:00 NOON**

** DUNWOODY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (DUMC)

1548 Mount Vernon Rd, Dunwoody, GA 30338

Website: www.dunwoodyumc.org - Church Phone: 770-394-0675

Meal Price: \$ 20.00 (Individual) / \$ 35.00 (Couples) *Courtesy Reservation Requested*

Speaker(s): Vis Kimenis

Subject: ‘Evolution Of Modern Weapons Systems’

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 March 16th, 2017 Meeting: ± 110))

Speaker for APRIL 20th, 2017 – Vis Kimenis (To Be Introduced By Commander Mecca)

The APRIL 20th, 2017 (THURSDAY) Meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table will feature one of our past Commanders, Vis Kimenis (1995-1996) as our speaker.

Many of our members know Vis Kimenis as a former speaker for us in November 1990 (*On The Receiving End*), in March 1992 (*Know You're Enemy- Germany.*); and in June 2011 (*The Latvian Legion*). He served as Commander of the Round Table from September 1995 – March 1996 after which he was called to serve in Operation Endeavor to train and equip the new Bosnian Army.

Vis was born in Latvia, U.S.S.R. and as a six-year-old boy witnessed the invasion of his country by the Germans, to include tank battles and other combat aspects of the fighting on the Russian front. Before the war was over, he and his family escaped into Germany where he lived through bombings by the British and Americans, to include the devastation of an entire city. He was on the ‘Receiving End’ – not once but twice.

After the war he lived for several years in camps for displaced persons. When he finally reached the United States, he completed his education at Norwich Military College and entered the U.S. Army. After serving for 25 years, including several overseas assignments, he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel.

Vis will be giving us a presentation on the Evolution of Modern Weapons Systems. He will be discussing Submarine Warfare, the evolution of Aviation, Artillery, and Mobile Weapons and early mobility in Warfare from Horse-Drawn through trucks, jeeps and even the ‘Red Ball Express’ in WW II.

Please welcome Vis Kimenis our APRIL 20th, 2017 (3rd Thursday) speaker (308th Meeting.)

Speaker Review for March 16th, 2017– - William (Billy) McDonald (Introduced By Commander Mecca)

The March 16th, 2016 (Thursday) Meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table featured as our speaker William ‘Billy’ McDonald. Billy McDonald grew up hearing stories about flying and about his father’s experiences in China, and as an adult, he was stunned to discover front-page stories about his father’s career. After five years of research and another year working with his co-author to create the final book, author McDonald has immersed himself in the history of aviation in Alabama and in China during the 1930s and 40s, as well as the experience of Americans in China during that era.

Since completing *The Shadow Tiger*, McDonald has presented his father’s story to dozens of organizations including The Southern Museum of Flight and the China National Aviation Corporation (CNAC) in San Francisco. In 2016, he also spent three weeks in China meeting with multiple Museums and Associations that showcase the history of American flyers with the *Flying Tigers* and the *China National Aviation Corporation (CNAC)*.

Billy was proud that his self-published book has reached a landmark of 1000 book sold, but more importantly the book was accepted by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. and will remain there in perpetuity.

McDonald currently serves on the board of *CNAC Heritage Fund* and *The Southern Museum of Flight*.

Thank-You Billy McDonald for keeping the Flying Tigers history alive with us on March 16th and for a job well done.

CONTINUED ON BACK

I am pleased to announce that we have three (3) New Members who have joined us since our March 16th, 2017 Meeting:
WW II Veteran John Schoenecker – USMC Veteran John Schoenecker served with the 1st Battalion 2nd Marines 1st Division at Guadalcanal.

Korean War Veteran Homer P. Blincoe – Homer served 5 years in the National Guard from 1947-1953, and with the 122nd Infantry Company A, 48th Division as a Radio Operator.

Bill LeCount – Bill is interested in the people and soldiers who served in WW II.

Please welcome John, Homer and Bill as our newest members at the April 20th, 2017 meeting.

SPECIAL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS / OF SPECIAL INTEREST & UPCOMING EVENTS

>>> **(FINAL) WWII HERITAGE DAYS SALUTES DOOLITTLE RAID, BATTLE OF MIDWAY-April 22nd – 23rd, 2017**

The mission of the *Commemorative Air Force* is preservation and education. Their goal is to preserve World War II aircraft and the stories of the men and women who built, maintained and flew them. *WWII Heritage Days* is a living history classroom. Suggested donations for *WWII Heritage Days* are: Adults 18 and Older, \$10; Ages 11-17 \$5. Children 10 and under and World War II veterans are admitted free. WWII Heritage Days will take place rain or shine. Please no pets. Tickets for “*Keepem Flying*” are \$55 before April 17th, \$65 at the door. Reserved tables and group discounts available. All ticket sales final. For more information, please visit www.wwiideays.org or call 678-364-1110. The

Commemorative Air Force is a non-profit organization dedicated to flying and restoring World War II aircraft. Based in Dallas, Texas, the organization has more than 13,000 members and operates a fleet of more than 166 aircraft. These aircraft compose the world’s largest flying museum, and are operated for the education of present and future generations. Visit their Website at www.commemorativeairforce.org.

>>> **(FINAL) 82nd AIRBORNE AWARDS FESTIVAL – April 26th – 29th, 2017** – Plan to attend the 40th Annual Airborne Festival hosted by the Donald D. Lassen Atlanta All-Airborne Chapter. Experience the history, entertainment and brotherhood over several days plus: April 27th-Memorial Luncheon & Guest Speaker & VA Health-Screening Services provided by the staff of Atlanta VA Hospital; April 28th – Bus trip to Ft. Benning – They will have an Airborne jump if weather is OK – Lunch at the Mess Hall & more; April 29th – Airborne briefings – 5PM Cocktail Hour followed by the Airborne Banquet & Airborne Awards Presentations-followed by entertainment. All friends of the military are invited to attend. Everyone must register to attend the event. Please contact Jim Jenkins – Treasurer – Atlanta Airborne Chapter at 770-564-3546 or via email at jimjenkins@pace-asp.com for additional information or visit their Website at www.82nd-atlanta.com

>>> **(NEW) ATLANTA ANTIQUE GUN & INTERNATIONAL MILITARY COLLECTORS SHOW** – April 28th (Friday) 12 Noon – 5PM & April 29th (Saturday) 9AM-4PM in Marietta, GA at the IMAW Local 709 Union Hall, 1032 S. Marietta Pkwy., Marietta, GA. Daily Admission \$7, Age 6-12 \$1, 2-Day Pass \$10 / Civil War, WW I, WW II, et al.

>>> **(UPDATED) AIR FORCE HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION - Georgia Chapter - MEETING REMINDER** - The Georgia Chapter of the 8th *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 2nd Saturday of each month. Please call Brent Bracewell for additional information at 678-416-5749 or email him at brent.bracewell@icloud.com or email the Organizations Secretary Marc Feit at marcfeit@bellsouth.net to confirm the time and date of their next scheduled meeting. Their Speaker’s engagements are subject to change, and as of today The Speaker for their May 13th meeting has NOT been determined.

>>> **(REMINDER) IMMEDIATE - WITNESS-TO-WAR ORGANIZATION AND ATLANTA WW II ROUND TABLE**
The Witness to War Foundation, which works on a volunteer basis to videotape all Roundtable meetings, is a local non-profit that conducts video interviews with combat veterans of all wars. Veterans from all services and all conflicts are asked to sign-up for an interview with Martin Madert and provide them with their oral histories. Sign-up sheets are available at all meetings or you can contact Martin via email at martin@witnessstowar.org or by phone at 770-628-0024. If you have general questions around Witness to War, you may contact Director, Emily Carley, at emily@witnessstowar.org or 770-481-3018. Additional information on the Foundation can be found at www.WitnessToWar.org.

>>> **(UPDATED) UPCOMING SPEAKERS for – April 2017 –June 2017**– Commander & Program Chairman Pete Mecca, with the assistance of the Program Committee, have lined-up some impressive speakers for us for our 2017-2018 campaign: April 20th, 2017 (3rd Thursday) – Vis Kimenis – ‘*Evolution of Modern Weapons Systems*’; May 16th, 2017 (3rd TUESDAY) – General Turner – U.S. Army; June 15th, 2017 (5th THURSDAY) – John McLaughlin. 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

>>> **(NEW) – WW II MOVIES TO BE RELEASED IN 2017** - “*Dunkirk*” opens as hundreds of thousands of British and Allied troops are surrounded by enemy forces. Trapped on the beach with their backs to the sea they face an impossible situation as the enemy closes in; “*Pegasus Bridge*” A feature film covering the true events of the capture of what would become known as Pegasus Bridge in Normandy – On the 6th of June 1944 Operation Overlord, the invasion of occupied France was launched by the Allies against the Germans, but one of the most vital operations crucial to its success would launch several hours earlier. The Capture of the Orne river bridges which would defend the left flank of the whole invasion was vital not only to the invasion itself but also to the Allied Airborne operation; “*The Zookeeper’s Wife – A War Story Movie*” Based on a book of the same name by Diane Ackerman, *The Zookeeper’s Wife* follows the lives of Jan and Antonina Zabinski. The book itself was based on an unpublished diary from Antonina that chronicled her story. The couple were zookeepers in the Warsaw Zoo in Poland. The couple was exceptionally compassionate, even housing a number of animals in their personal villa within the grounds of the zoo. Their young son Ryszard also lived with them in their villa; “*Our Shining Sword*” - Douglas, a broken, solitary, Spitfire Ace, must overcome his past to lead a Lancaster bomber crew in the pivotal aerial war over Berlin, in 1943; “*Flags over Berlin*” - *Flags over Berlin*’ is the story of one of the most important intelligence missions of the World War II. British T-Force major Mark Spencer must go to the besieged Berlin in late April 1945 under the guise of a newspaper correspondent attached to the frontline units of the Red Army preparing to storm the city.

Monthly Quotes:

“Nature loves courage. You make the commitment and nature will respond to that commitment by removing impossible obstacles. “Dream the impossible dream,” McKenna went on, “and the world will not grind you under, it will lift you up. This is the trick. This is what all these teachers and philosophers who really counted, who really touched the Alchemical Gold, this is what they understood. This is the Shamanic dance in the waterfall. This is how magic is done. By hurling yourself into the abyss and discovering it’s a feather-bed.”

Terence Kemp McKenna (November 16, 1946 – April 3, 2000) was an American Ethnobotanist, Mystic, Psychonaut, Lecturer and Author