



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE
PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 31 No. 9

309th MEETING

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Contributor(s) To This

Newsletter

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* Vis Kimenis

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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: MAY 16th, 2017 (TUESDAY) >> *Next Meeting* JUNE 29th (THUR.)

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): George Wilkerson

Subject: ‘20th Armored Division-412th Armored Field Artillery Battalion’

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 April 20th, 2017 Meeting: ±61))

Speaker for MAY 16th, 2017 (3rd TUESDAY)– George Wilkerson (To Be Introduced By Commander Mecca)

The May 16th, 2017 (3rd TUESDAY) Meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table will feature one of our WW II Veterans, George Wilkerson as our speaker.

George grew-up on a farm in Missouri and in 1941 was a freshman at the University of Missouri. When the war broke out he enlisted and was trained in mechanized warfare. He shipped out of Boston to France right after the *Battle of the Bulge* and, with the 20th Armored Division, fought his way through Europe until the end of the war.

He was in six (6) countries, rarely spending the night in the same place two nights in-a-row. For much of this time, he served on an M-7, which is a artillery piece mounted on a tank chassis. He was in a group that liberated the *Dachau Concentration Camp* and was in Munich when the war ended.

George came back to the U.S. on leave, preparing for the invasion of Japan when he learned that the war in the Pacific had ended. He left the service about 6-months after the war ended and, after finishing his College education at the University of Missouri, worked for the Ford Motor Company Tractor and Machinery Division, serving for many years as an instructor of mechanics. Wilkerson worked for Ford for a total of 37 years, at some point being transferred to Atlanta from St. Louis, and has lived in Atlanta ever since.

Please welcome George Wilkerson as our MAY 16th, 2017 (3rd Tuesday) speaker (309th Meeting.)

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

The April 20th, 2016 (Thursday) Meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table featured as our speaker Vis Kimenis. Vis is a native of Free Latvia, many of you know Lieutenant Colonel Kimenis as a former Commander of the Round Table (1995-1996). His presentation on the *Evolution of Modern Weapons Systems* was widely viewed as exceptional and a great learning platform.

Vis began his presentation with the weaponization of Submarines beginning with the *American Turtle* in 1775 in use against the British and the *Hunley* in use during the Civil War, he then advanced onto the use of Subs in WW I and WW II. Kimenis also noted that the Americans and Russians continue to advance in the use of Submarines, with the Russians developing ultra-quiet Sub Fleets with their *Project 885 Program*. He was adamant that the Russians continue to be great purveyors of Secret Intelligence and have stolen both American and British secrets on Submarine construction since WW II using Industrial Espionage.

He then moved onto the weaponization of aircraft beginning in 1903 when Captain Eddy Rickenbacker used pistols to shoot at German aviators. The Germans of course quickly adapted to the use of weapons on aircraft by mounting sub-machine guns on their *Messerschmitt* fighters. Other nations also quickly adapted their aircraft as fighting machines including the Japanese with their *Zero*'s. Although America now has Air Dominance with the development of the *F-22 Raptor* and *F-35 Lightning II*, the Russians are quickly narrowing the gap with the development of their advanced *Su35S* and *Su-45* Aircraft with their advanced Radar-Jamming capability.

Vis next discussed Artillery Weaponry beginning with the discovery of Gunpowder by Chinese Alchemists seeking an elixir of immortality. Artillery was used on ships as attack weapons and eventually

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this led to the development of ordinance capable of hitting targets several miles away. By the end of WW II, the largest artillery piece employed by the Army against Axis forces was the *M1 240mm Howitzer*, which could fire a 360-pound shell out to a range of 23,000 meters (14.3 miles). Colonel Kimenis closed his presentation with the modern use of *Rail Guns* and *Electromagnetic Pulse Weapons* being developed by the U.S., Russians and Chinese and in stating, that in his opinion, the most useful invention to come out of WW II was Radar.

Thank-You Vis Kimenis for a magnificent presentation, for keeping the history alive with us on April 20th and for a job well done.



>>> **(NEW) DAY TRIP TO MUSEUM OF AVIATION – ALL MEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES & FRIENDS INVITED**

On Friday, May 19, we will have a free guided tour of the *Museum of Aviation* at Warner Robins AFB in Warner Robins GA. We will meet at Dunwoody United Methodist Church and depart at 9 am sharp. Before going to the museum, we will have lunch at Owens Boarding House, an all-you-can-eat fried chicken, meatloaf, and vegetable emporium near the museum. Cost of lunch will be about \$10 cash. The museum and trip are free. For a free reservation, please email Past Commander Jerry Colley at braghq@aol.com or call 770-289-2271. This trip is open to all members, your families, and your friends. We will Carpool for this trip. Please let me know if your car will be available for Carpooling. We should return to Dunwoody UMC around 5 pm.

>>> **(NEW) ATLANTA WWII ROUND TABLE ALERT AND WARNING– PACEMAKERS AND IMPLANTABLE CARDIOVERTER DEFIBRILLATORS - OTHER IMPLANTABLE DEVICES & MEMBERSHIP NAME BADGE**

MAGNETIC FASTENERS – As most members are aware, the Round Table Membership Badges were recently upgraded and now have the more convenient Magnetic Fasteners attached vs. the Clip-On Fasteners. However, Member Clayton Byrd voiced a serious concern and warning to the Round Table about the Magnetic Fasteners and how they might potentially interact with *Pacemakers, Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators and other Implantable Devices*. The two (2) primary manufacturers of Implantable Devices, *Boston Scientific and Medtronic*, have both stated different interference levels of Magnetic susceptibility with their devices. *Boston Scientific* states that their devices should not be exposed to Magnetic Fields greater than 10 gauss (1 mTesla); *Medtronic* states that their devices can operate properly with a 5 gauss limit for DC Magnetic Fields.

The Magnetic Field strength of our Membership Badge fasteners is much greater than *Boston Scientific's* or *Medtronic's* devices tolerance level(s) and are too powerful for *Pacemakers, Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators and other Implantable Devices* to operate properly. The Round Table is asking any active member with one of these devices to immediately stop using a Name Badge with the Magnetic Fastener; your Badge will be modified again by the Sergeant-At-Arms Captain, Ralph Lehr or Deputy Commander Jack Coyle, and it will be converted back to a standard Clip-On Fastener. Please accept The Round Table's sincere apology for any discomfort or danger this might have exposed any of our members or their families to.

>>> **(NEW) ATLANTA WW II ROUND TABLE- NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS FOR 2017-2018 CAMPAIGN-**

Primarily due to the challenges and vagaries of establishing a solid footing at our new venue at the Dunwoody United Methodist Church since January 2017, the Round Table will conduct a modified/snap nomination and election of Officers to guide the Round Table through our 2017-2018 campaign. All standing Officers have agreed to accept the nominations for their respective positions and therefore there will be no need for a Nominating Committee this year. Officers accepting nominations are as follows: Commander- Pete Mecca; Deputy Commander - Jack Coyle; Adjutant - John Kovach; Finance Officer - Jay Lenny; Senior Sergeant-at-Arms - Ralph Lehr and Senior Chaplain - Elaine Rivers. The election process will be finalized at the June 2017 meeting by a show-of-hands. If any member wishes to challenge these nominations, please notify Commander Mecca or Deputy Commander Coyle at the May 16th (TUESDAY) meeting.

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

Chapter of the 8th *Air Force Historical Association* 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. The GA Chapter of the Mighty Eighth Air Force monthly meeting (Saturday 13 May), will be a tribute to honor WW II veteran and Atlanta WW II Round Table member Richard Sadler, who passed-away on April 26th. Richard Sadler was a *D-Day Veteran* who successfully piloted a Landing Craft and delivered an *Australian Demolitions Team* onto *JUNO Beach* on that fateful day to blow a hole in the sea wall, thus allowing the invasion force that had become mired on the shore to move inland. Phil Turner, who a little over a year ago, interviewed Richard will play that interview and the group will share photo's and their favorite Richard Sadler stories.

>>> **(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@witnessowar.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@witnessowar.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:

May 16th, 2017 (3rd TUESDAY) – WW II Veteran George Wilkerson – ‘20th Armored Division-412th Armored Field Artillery Battalion’; June 29th, 2017 (5th THURSDAY) – Jerry McLaughlin – Author of *D-Day+60, B-17 Flying Fortress Restoration and Hap's War (Biography of former Round Table Member Hap Chandler)*. 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



Monthly Quotes:

“I do not have to tell you who won the war. You know, the artillery did.”

– **Gen George S. Patton**

“Our artillery . . . The Germans feared it almost more than anything we had.”

– **Ernie Pyle “Brave Men”, 1944**

“Artillerymen believe the world consist of two types of people; other Artillerymen and targets.”

– **Unknown**