



## From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

November 2021 Newsletter [www.WWIIroundtable.com](http://www.WWIIroundtable.com)

Guten Tag. Salutations. Bonjour. !Hola! Buon giorno. Kon' nichiwa. Blessed Veterans Day to all, like me, who have served and those whose family members have and those who want to learn from their experiences. The WWII Roundtable board members work their butts off to line up speakers for our EVERY 4th Monday programs since 1987! The only other WWII Roundtable that I am familiar with, that has faithfully continued in its mission to educate about WWII, is in Edina, MN, and also, oddly enough, was formed in 1987! I am sure, there are others. If you have suggestions for speakers, please let us know ASAP. Tell all about us, refer them to our website, have them be paid members, come in person or view us on Zoom. Today, 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier containing 3 service members. Read Robert Binyon's WWI poem: For the Fallen (1914).

*Charles Allen Holt, D.O.*

**Nov. 22, 2021, 7:00 PM In-Person & Zoom**

Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Social! 7:00 Greetings & 7:15

### GUEST SPEAKER

**Robert Baker, WW2 veteran of 20<sup>th</sup> Air Force,  
China-Burma-India**

**Interviewed by son, Kent Baker**

**Meeting Starts 7:00 PM promptly; Q & A at end of  
program**

Please use Zoom link on website to join each month.

#### CONTENTS

Page 1 Program

Page 2 Ozzie's Trivia

Page 3 Information  
on Speakers

Page 4 Books & CBI

Pages 5-6 In Memory  
Jimmy Mack

Page 7 Shively's Pa-  
cific programs



6:00 Dinner served  
\$11 + table tip++

7:00 Program  
In person & Zoom

#### 2021 DINNERS:

Feb 22, Mar 22, Apr 26,  
May 24, June 28, July 26,  
Aug 23, Sept 27, Oct 25,  
Nov 22, Dec 27

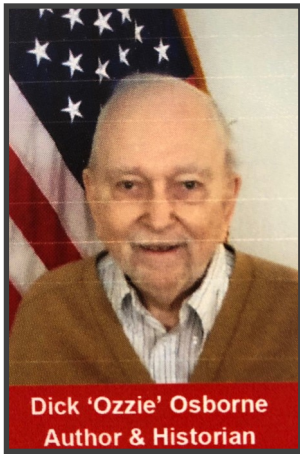
#### Dues Reminder

Accepting checks now for  
2021, payable to:  
WWII Roundtable, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1965  
Noblesville, IN 46061  
Or, go to our website to pay  
online: [wwiiroundtable.com](http://wwiiroundtable.com)  
- Veteran \$20  
- Non-Veteran \$25  
- WWII Veterans free

#### WWII Round Table is collecting dues in November and December for 2022

Please pay via website or bring exact cash or check to dinners Nov. 22 or in December. At dinner sign-in, you will also be able confirm correctness of your membership information. This will help us update our membership list.

Join us in person if you are able! Even more of our members attended during the summer and it was great to see so many friends once again. Remember, if you are in person and paying for a meal, you help support the Northside Service Club. They need our business. Be sure to send your RSVP to Karl Kleinbub ASAP: [knj1002@myinestarnet.net](mailto:knj1002@myinestarnet.net) or phone 317- 607- 6948. A head count for Northside Social is very important. Also, please have exact change \$11 ++ tip for your meal. You do not want to miss the opportunity either for the book / artifact drawing: \$5.00 per ticket. Alan Andrews always has a great selection of "gems" as does Travis Petrie with WW2 era books and more!



## WW II TRIVIA FOR NOVEMBER 2021

- In the US national election of November 1932 the American public elected Franklin Roosevelt by a landslide.
- In the German national election of the same month the German people elected Adolf Hitler by a landslide. On January 30, 1933 Hitler became chancellor of Germany. That day was Franklin Roosevelt's birthday.
- German submarines arrived off the US East Coast in January 1942 and began sinking Allied shipping. It was not until March 1, that US armed forces sank the first German submarine, U-656, off Newfoundland. By that time, 14 German submarines were falsely reported to have been sunk off the East Coast.
- As the war ended in Europe US forces captured enough V-2 missile components to make some 100 missiles. The Soviets knew this.
- Soon after coming to power in Italy Mussolini banned beauty contests and dancing claiming that they were immoral.
- In Germany on April 16, 1941 14 year old Joseph Ratzinger joined the Hitler Youth by law. In 2005 Ratzinger became Pope Benedict XVI.
- President Truman's advisers told him that the US could expect between 300,000 to 3 million casualties if we were forced to invade Japan. Truman and his aides used the figure 1 million in their planning.
- During the German occupation of France the Germans used the Maginot Line facilities as warehouse space and stored a wide variety of items there. Many of the items were still there by 1970 so the French government sold them at auction.
- When he was captured by Allied forces in 1945, Hermann Goering had become so fat that he couldn't put on his own boots. When he was jailed at Nuremberg he was put on a forced diet and lost weight.

**... MORE TRIVIA NEXT MONTH**

# TWENTIETH AIR FORCE IN CHINA-BURMA-INDIA THEATER

Thank you to our Board member, Karl Kleinbub, for inviting Bob Baker to speak! This will be a very interesting and informative program!

## Guest Speaker

**Robert E. Baker, WW2 Veteran**

**58th Bomb Wing of 568th Bomb Group**

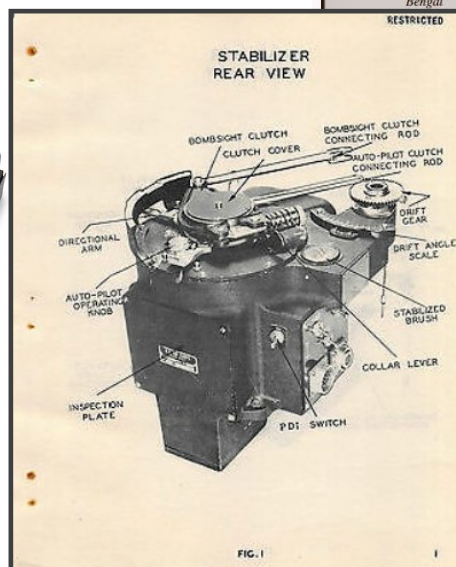
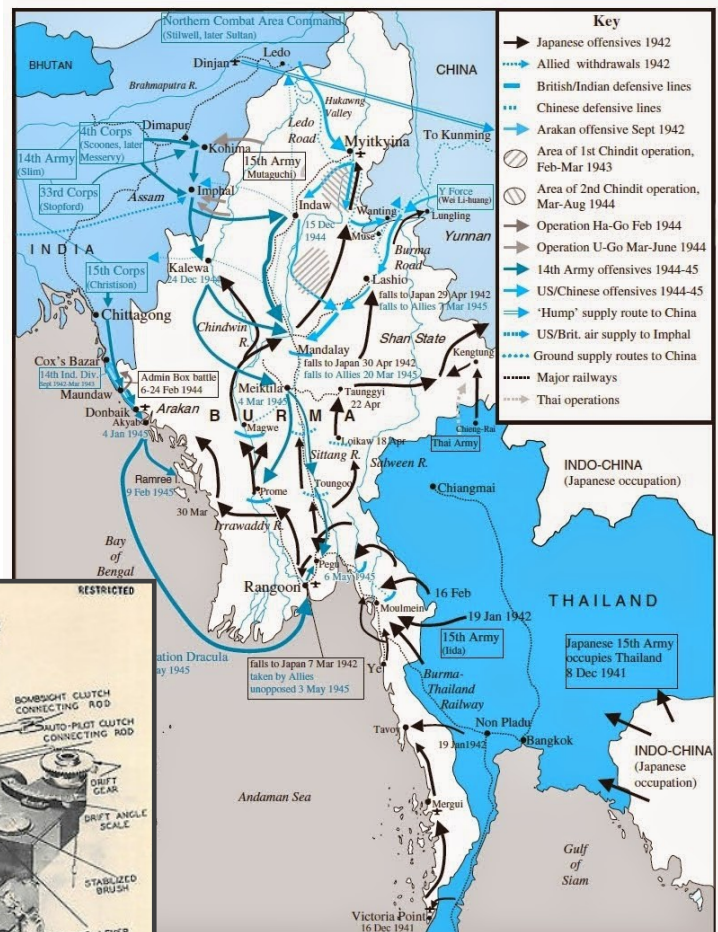
Although two Bombardment Wings were allocated to Twentieth Bomber Command, only the 58th Bombardment Wing entered service in the China, India and Burma Theater. The wing arrived in India in March 1944 and was based at Kharagpur. A forward staging base had been created at Kwanghan, China. The 58th Bombardment Wing carried out 72 missions from these two bases. Later, the bombing campaign from China finally came to an end when the 58th Bombardment Wing closed down its operations on 29 March 1945. It was then transferred to Tinian in the Marianas Islands.

**Join our program to learn much more about Baker's service and his connection to the Norden Bombsight equipment.**

**Q & A will follow the program**



Sample view of Bombsight when used in Europe

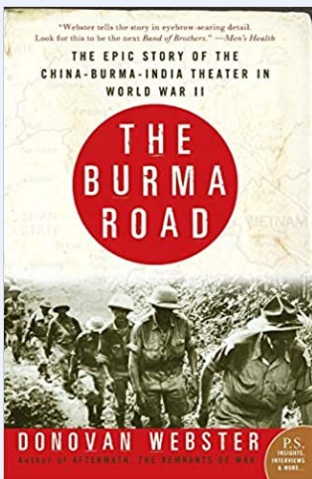


## Additional Reading Suggestion

The China-Burma-India Theater took a back seat to Europe and the Pacific in terms of manpower, resources and press coverage. But its stories of daring pilots who “flew the hump” of the mighty Himalayas, freewheeling guerrilla fighters known as Merrill’s Marauders, [and other stories] in three diverse countries were as colorful as those from the more heavily documented areas of World War II.



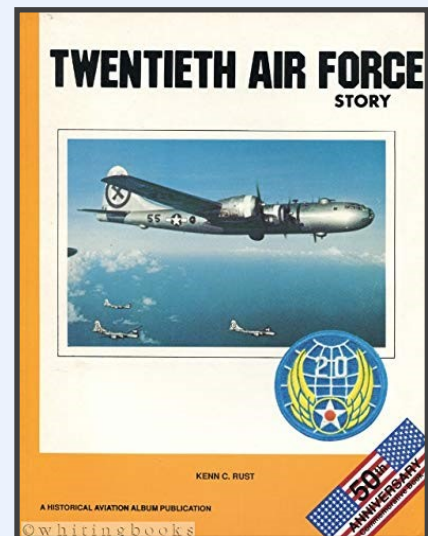
Go to Veterans’ History Project at the Library of Congress for lots more stories:  
<https://www.loc.gov/>



As the Imperial Japanese Army swept across China and South Asia at World War II's outset, closing all of China's seaports, more than 200,000 Chinese laborers embarked on a seemingly impossible task: to cut a 700-mile overland route -- the Burma Road -- from the southwest Chinese city of Kunming to Lashio, Burma. But when Burma fell in 1942, the Burma Road was severed. As the first step of the Allied offensive toward Japan, American general Joseph Stilwell reopened it, while, at the same time, keeping China supplied by air-lift from India and simultaneously driving the Japanese out of Burma.

From the breathtaking adventures of the American "Hump" pilots who flew hair-raising missions over the Himalayas to make food-drops in China to the true story of the mission that inspired the famous film *The Bridge on the River Kwai*, to the grueling jungle operations of Merrill's Marauders and the British Chindit Brigades, *The Burma Road* vividly re-creates the sprawling, sometimes hilarious, often harrowing, and still largely unknown stories of one of the greatest chapters of World War II.

“Time Runs Out in CBI” Carrying the narrative from General Wedemeyer's assumption of command to the end of the war, this volume concludes with Americans still working to improve the Chinese Army while attempting to fly in sufficient supplies from India and Burma. This is available as a Kindle book on Amazon. *Twentieth Air Force* is available through Abe Books online.



## WWII Round Table Member James McDowell — our “Jimmy Mack”, a Living Legend!



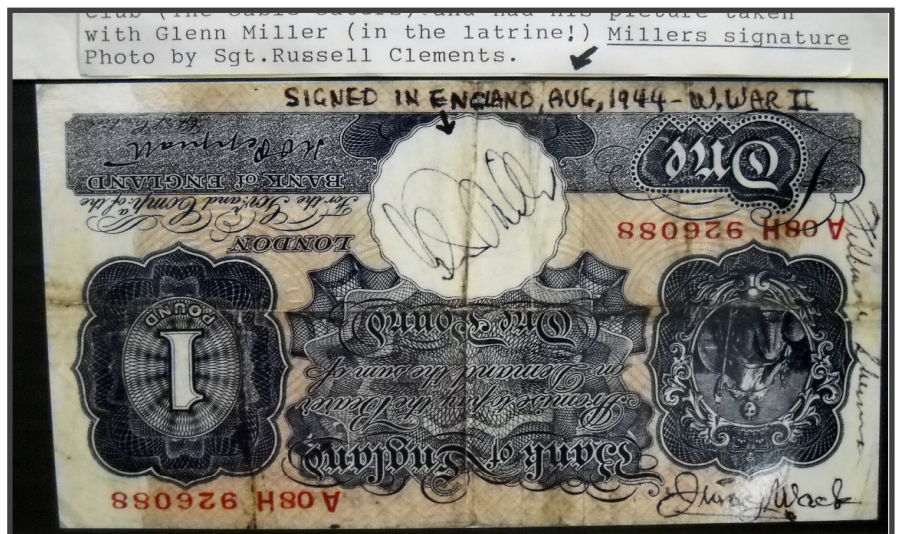
**James McDowell (Jimmy Mack) of Indianapolis, peacefully passed away at age 99 October 13, 2021. (Thank you, Jill Fewell, for posting his part of his story on FaceBook)**

Jimmy was born June 30, 1922 to John and Bura McDowell in Lincoln, NE. He had 2 brothers and one sister. He was a graduate of Lincoln High School in Lincoln, NE. He was the Senior class president as well as a singer with several school choral groups. Jimmy joined the Army in 1942. He was stationed at Camp Atterbury in Columbus, IN. During that time he would take a bus from Columbus to Indianapolis to shop for sheet music and records. That is where he met a very special lady who worked for Pearson’s Music Co. in downtown Indianapolis. Once he saw her, he was “smitten”! After he returned to Pearson’s Music Store, several times, the salesgirl invited him to her radio broadcasting class at The Jordan Conservatory of Music, at Butler University, where she attended. After he went to the broadcasting class, he was hooked! He knew right then that after the war was over he would pursue a career in radio broadcasting. That special gal’s name was Peggy Million. They fell in love and got engaged in 1944. Jimmy was sent overseas to work in admissions at the **231st Station Hospital at Morley Hall, Norfolk, United Kingdom**. It was a military hospital to support 15 Heavy Bomber bases. The patients were casualties from high-altitude missions flying over enemy territory. While stationed at the hospital, the commanding officer, Colonel Linwood Gable, decided he needed to incorporate music for the morale of the service personnel and patients. Jimmy became the singer with the “Gable Gators Orchestra”.

Tec 5 John Aragona, ASN 32432216, Violin  
 Tec 5 Edgar Johnson, ASN 34689892, Saxophone  
 Pfc Lenard A. Kratoska, ASN 36657549, Trumpet  
 Tec 3 Herman K. Kumbera, ASN 36336372, Violin  
 S/Sgt Leonard R. Lovelace, ASN 34432092, Saxophone  
**Tec 5 James A. McDowell, ASN 17122902, Vocalist**  
 S/Sgt Harry A. Miller, ASN 31171399, Piano (Band Leader)  
 Tec 5 Eugene R. Rocca, ASN 36582578, Drums  
 Tec 4 Martin H. Sauser, ASN 36731613, Violin  
 Sgt Edmund O. Vieira, Jr., ASN 31036542, Saxophone  
 Pvt Frank J. Wielgus, Jr., ASN 35370242, Trumpet  
 1st Lt Oliver N. Zeiher, O-1544305, Trumpet

The Hospital band played a number of concerts and dances for British War Charities, the British Ministry of Information and the English-Speaking Union offered speakers and entertainers, prominent military and civilian leaders gave speeches and discussions. The 231st SH participated in the “Stars and Stripes War Orphan Fund”, raising £111-17s-5d for the support of a British war orphan by voluntary contributions. A special Christmas Party for children of Wymondham and Attleborough (Norfolk) was given on 23 December 1944; Tec 5 Jerome Schwartz was Father Christmas.

Jimmy was thrilled when Major Glenn Miller came through the 231st Station Hospital to visit the service personnel during his tour of England with his Army Air Force Band on August 18, 1944. They signed this bill! (Little did he know that Miller would be killed four months later when a plane he was on crashed into the English Channel)



## Jimmy Mack's WW2 Story

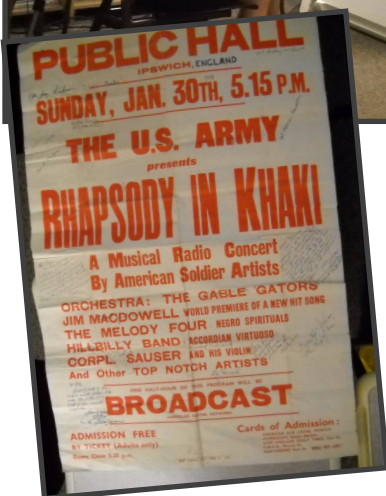
On May 7, 1945 The Gable Gators were given an opportunity to record a song at the Broadcasting House in London. It was sent through the airwaves over the Armed Forces Network. After an overnight stay in London, the band members were awakened to the news that the war was over! They rushed to Piccadilly Circus in London to celebrate with thousands! That was May 8, 1945. VE Day!

After the war Jimmy and Peggy were married in Indianapolis September 1, 1946. They moved to Chicago where he enrolled in Chicago's Columbia College of Radio. After graduating, they moved to Benton Harbor, MI where he became a radio broadcaster for WHFB radio. He along with Peggy, became producers of two programs called "Lullabye Parade" and "Melody Mack 'N Peg". In 1953 Jimmy got an offer to work at WOOD-TV in Grand Rapids, MI. In 1957 the CBS affiliate of WOOD, WISH in Indianapolis, offered him a position in radio and TV. Jimmy and Peggy made the move with their three children to Indianapolis. In 1958 they produced a radio show called "Teens & Tunes" and a TV teen dance show called "Teen Twirl".

Jimmy was a choir member of Union Chapel United Methodist Church for 50 years. His singing voice was a special gift from God. He and Peggy taught Sunday School and produced several variety shows at the church. The "Mack Family" were active members of Footlite Musicals. He starred in several productions, but was best know for his portrayal of Harold Hill in "The Music Man". At WISH Jimmy was also a disc jockey playing the weekly hits from the Billboard top 100. Jimmy moved onto three radio stations where he was also an on-air personality. He stayed with WIRE, WXLW, and WBRI radio stations until he made the move to WLWI-Channel 13. He had a popular teen dance show from 1965 to 1969 called "Bandstand 13". He retired from television in 1973.

In 2003, **Jimmy Mack was interviewed for the Library of Congress Veteran History Project** at Park Tudor School. Four freshmen students were enthralled with his story and he even sang samples of popular wartime tunes for the group. To read and also listen to this special interview go to: <https://indianamemory.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/ParkTudorLI/id/369/rec/1> At about 28-29 minutes into the interview he sings some sample tunes. He was an incredibly talented, and very generous individual—one that left an unforgettable impression upon these students. Read the transcript to see how and where he met Glenn Miller!

Some of the photos taken during the interview show how special and talented Jimmy Mack was!



Go to this link Glenn Miller mystery solved: <https://www.cpr.org/show-segment/70-years-later-mystery-of-glenn-millers-disappearance-may-be-solved/>

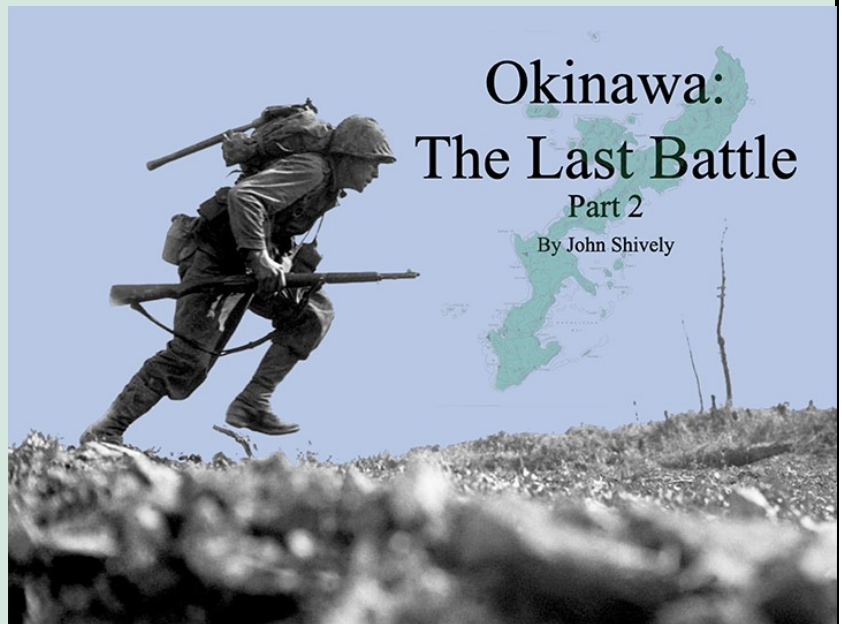
## REMINDERS: Updated Lecture Series: "Okinawa"

### Dr. John Shively's Lectures are available on YouTube

Historian/author and WWII Round Table member John Shively has presented a series of GoTo webinar lectures during this winter and spring. If you wish to be on his email list, please contact John Shively at [indjcs@aol.com](mailto:indjcs@aol.com) or 765-491-7010 or go to WWII RT webpage for information. His programs have been recorded and are available also via these links. He has just posted to YouTube the first of a planned three part lecture series on the battle of Okinawa. Here is the YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TtgZ2jF1vU> It is now ready for viewing. He has completed lecture two - on the battle of Okinawa provisionally titled *Okinawa: The Last Battle*. "Sometime I also will make a virtual tour of Okinawa as I did for Guadalcanal. This will be based mostly on the photos I have taken on my previous visits to Okinawa. I am not sure how long this lecture will be but anticipate it will not be anywhere near as long as the series on Guadalcanal. But... The plan after I finish Okinawa is to return to the battle of Guadalcanal and make a slideshow/lecture on the naval battles of Guadalcanal."

Part 2 picks up where Part 1 left off (wow, what a surprise). I am not sure how many parts there will be when I am finished. I am currently well into Part 3, but the way things are going, I think it will be five parts and that does not include the planned lectures on the use of the kamikaze and the last mission of the IJN Yamato.

One of these days I hope to have my own website dedicated to the Pacific war with all of these lectures on one site rather than scattered on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Hope you enjoy these lectures and are learning something. They should put you in good stead if you plan to go with me to Guadalcanal or Okinawa in the future. I am now going to make one on the battle of Okinawa. When that is complete I will make one on the naval battles of Guadalcanal. As always, all critical comments are welcome. I want to get the history right. Also, comments on the cosmetic appearance are welcome. Cactus guide, John



### UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- ◆ November: WWII Veteran, Bob Baker, was in US Army Air Corps and flew on B29s. He will be accompanied by his son, Kent, who will moderate the presentation.
- ◆ Possible additional dinner event: December 6, 2021—Remembering Pearl Harbor! Where were you or a member of your family when Pearl Harbor was attacked? This will be confirmed regarding interest of members and availability of room.

OR

- ◆ December 27: Sharing Stories: 27 DEC program will consist of vetted brief stories about where you were on XMAS while you were in the military--hopefully some exotic locales... a foxhole, perhaps?
- ◆ Send us your suggestions for speakers, too! Dr. Holt: [charles.holt@va.gov](mailto:charles.holt@va.gov), or Kathryn Lerch [klerch@parktudor.org](mailto:klerch@parktudor.org); or Bill Ervin, [wervin@butler.edu](mailto:wervin@butler.edu)