



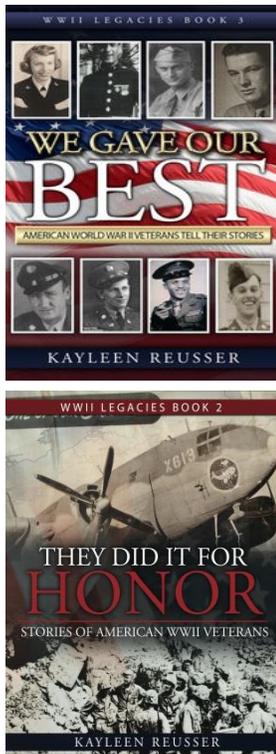
## From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

September 2020 Newsletter [www.WWIIroundtable.com](http://www.WWIIroundtable.com)

Happy September! It is still warm and humid in IN, but Denver dropped 60 degrees F, on 8 September 2020 and had snow . . . Fall and Winter are coming! If you unfortunately missed our last two Zoom programs, you REALLY missed out. It is SO easy to join the meeting/program on Zoom...merely click on the blue hyperlink in the newsletter addenda, which you automatically get on your email (if you signed up on our website—bottom of the page under SUBSCRIBE) or on the newsletter on our website: [wwiiroundtable.com](http://wwiiroundtable.com). Charlie Russell is our audiovisual Zoom master and does a great job.

Please RSVP ASAP if you want to join us in person for our first [cont. p. 2]

### Hybrid Meeting & Program at North Side Social September 28, 2020, 7:00 PM via Zoom



#### Kayleen Reusser, author & historian

"From Bletchley to Romania: Stories of Youth who Survived WWII"

*After interviewing 250 WWII vets in Northeast Indiana (as well as our late WWIIRT member "Andy" Anderson), Reusser has written a series of books featuring their unique stories. She is in the process of putting together another book, which should be just as engaging. Reusser recently completed a WWII trip to Normandy and beyond. She has also shared lessons learned from this tour. In her presentation on the 28th, she will explain how she got involved doing WWII interviews & share with our Round Table listeners some particularly interesting accounts. Books will be available for purchase through online orders.*

**INFORMATION DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER October 12<sup>TH</sup>** Please send items email address changes and obituary notices to the editors: Kathryn Lerch & Marlene Mendonsa: c/o [klerch@parktutor.org](mailto:klerch@parktutor.org) Thank you!

**INDIANAPOLIS**  
ERNIE PYLE CHAPTER  
**WWII**  
**ROUNDTABLE**  
[WWIIroundtable.com](http://WWIIroundtable.com)  
*Where history comes alive!*  
Northside Knights of Columbus  
2100 E 71st  
Indianapolis, IN 46220

**2020 DINNER PROGRAMS**

January 27	5:00pm
February 24	\$10 Buffet
March 23	Program
April 27	6:00-8:00pm
May 19	
June 22	
July 27	
August 24	
September 28	
October 26	
November 23	
December 15	
January 25, 2021	
February 22, 2021	

#### 2020 Member Dues

Mail a check 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  
WW2 Veteran free membership

HYBRID program (the speaker doing our program will be coming to us via Zoom and will be projected on a big screen in the dining room) (bring your OWN mask)—it is first come, first served, so, once we get 50 persons (we don't make the rules for the dining room) who are DEFINITELY coming and PAYING for their meal we will cut it off. No worries, the rest of you can Zoom it from home! We still REALLY need general members to help us out, especially now, that we are trying a hybrid program. We need help ushering members to their tables/cleaning up/and other sundry things that occur. Also, we need a new Treasurer (would have to be willing to be a board member) and folks to help with our financial records. We need folks to help with our website/program coordination/membership records, etc.. Please let any of the board know if you'd like to help. Sorry, NOBODY gets paid for their work. Most of the tasks can be done from your OWN home! And, as always, we are looking for potential speakers...we can help with the details including Power Point Presentations (PPP) and even having someone else give the presentation, if the speaker has language or other difficulties. As the old saying goes, "only change is constant" and we are diligently trying to "readjust fire" to keep our historic and great organization going in the midst of this "new normal." So, don't complain; join us, help us, participate, enjoy and "Keep Calm and Carry On."

God bless, *Charles Holt*, D.O.

COL (RET), MC, USAR

**Just a reminder you can join our meetings "virtually" via the Sign-in Link**

**Sign-in Available September 28, 2020 06:45 PM EDT WWII Round Table Program Starts 7 PM**

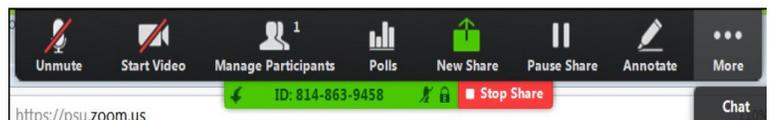
**Hybrid Portion Zoom**

The WWII Round Table meeting information is as follows: Charles D. Russell has invited you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Topic: **World War II Round Table 28 September Meeting & Program**

**Please sign on: Sep 28, 2020 between 6:45 and 6:55 PM Eastern Time** Do a mute/sound check too, so you are ready before the 7 pm start of program.

**Click this link to join:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88449332708?  
pwd=V0tldFc4UHdncm5zNFBES0dYenAzZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88449332708?pwd=V0tldFc4UHdncm5zNFBES0dYenAzZz09)



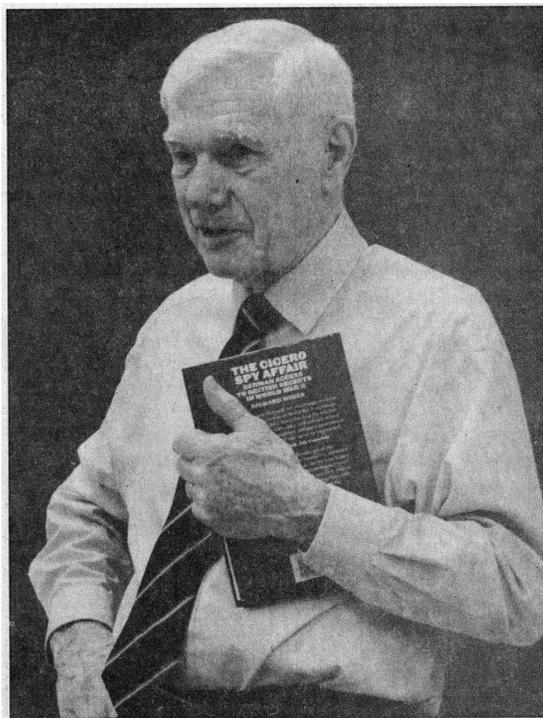
**\*Note, if you download the Zoom program onto your computer for regular use, you can join our meetings by merely clicking the new link at the given time provided in the newsletter each month. You can also review details for using Zoom on our website.**

## History of Our WWII Round Table

Did you know one of our early members crash-landed in Turkey during WWII?

The late Earl Zimmerman was one of the WWII RT's early members, and a past president. In the photo here he was speaking to a class at Butler University where Bill Ervin was teaching. "Zimmy" as he was affectionately called by his friends had an incredible ability to tell stories. The *Butler Collegian* wrote in 2008, that Earl Zimmerman began his military career in the US Army Air Corps in 1942. His radio background was useful while he was stationed in Ankara, Turkey.

During his third mission, Operation TIDAL WAVE, their plane ran out of gas and crash landed in neutral Turkey. Technically a POW in a neutral country, he had relatively free reign to do as he wanted so he set up a radio station in the US Embassy. According to his oral history interview with the Library of Congress Veteran History Project, he served in the 525th Bomb Sqn., 379th BG, of the 8th Air Force. While in Ankara, he lived pretty well—it was a break from the terror bombing over Crete and Italy. "I lived in a good hotel and we used to go have a nice meal and we'd run into the German ambassador, Franz von Papen. The owner of the restaurant made sure we sat on the other side of the restaurant, and we had a nice little band playing music." He remembered as prisoners they promised the following: "We'd get up in the morning and we'd go to the restaurant to eat. We'd sign a parole not to escape. . . . When you come back and sign in [at the hotel], then you can escape. . . ." which he eventually did via a night train to Egypt.



Collegian photo by Jon Irons

**MAKING THE CONNECTION:** Earl Zimmerman set up a radio station at the U.S. Embassy in Turkey during his service.



Operation TIDAL WAVE is more frequently known as the low level bombing raid to Ploesti, Romania in August 1943 to knock out the oil refineries. [More on this topic in the August 2021 newsletter] Zimmy was also part of OSS operations. This included Operation CARPET BAGGER in January 1944 when he dropped agents into Norway and Sweden. He finally came home from England with a war bride—and presented her with a bracelet of gold escape coins!

Links for samples of Ploesti videos:

- 1) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0f47\\_6ciR\\_g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0f47_6ciR_g)
- 2) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GBXNOcVCRZE>

Article link: <https://www.warhistoryonline.com/instant-articles/black-sunday-ploesti-raid.html>

**Don't forget to send us your favorite stories from the WWII RT . . . Kathryn & Marlene**

# The Last Post

## Recently Passed Member



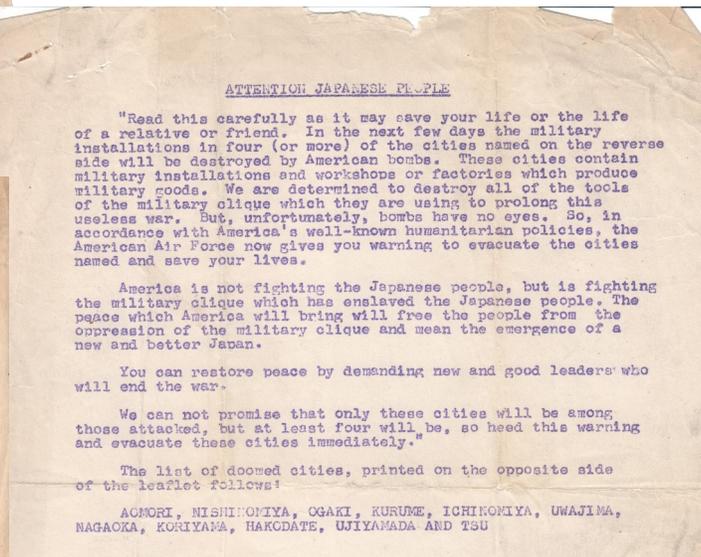
WWII Roundtable member and veteran, **Russell Desserich**, served in Navy Reserve Squadron, VP93. Desserich was born on May 26, 1943 in Cincinnati, Ohio and passed away on August 18, 2020. Russ received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Cincinnati. He served active duty in the U.S. Navy from 1967 to 1973, and in the Naval Reserves from 1973 to 1994, retiring with the rank of Captain. He spent most of his very successful career at Intel Corp., selling micro-controllers and managing a sales team. A former co-worker said, "His advice and counsel were invaluable. He was much much more than a great salesman. He was a leader, and we all will miss him." Another friend said, "Russ was indeed a true gentleman in every sense. He was a role model for character and integrity – and fun... He made the world a better and more interesting place."



## History Gems from WWII Round Table Files



War against the Empire of Japan in its final days . . . In an effort to save lives, leaflets were dropped for citizens to read and at the bottom lists the "doomed" cities . . .



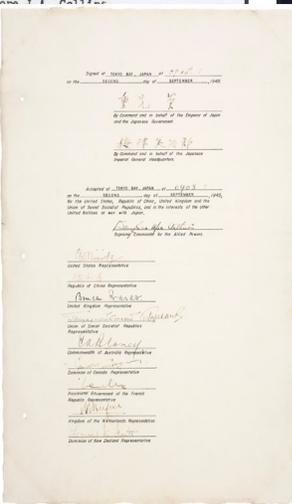
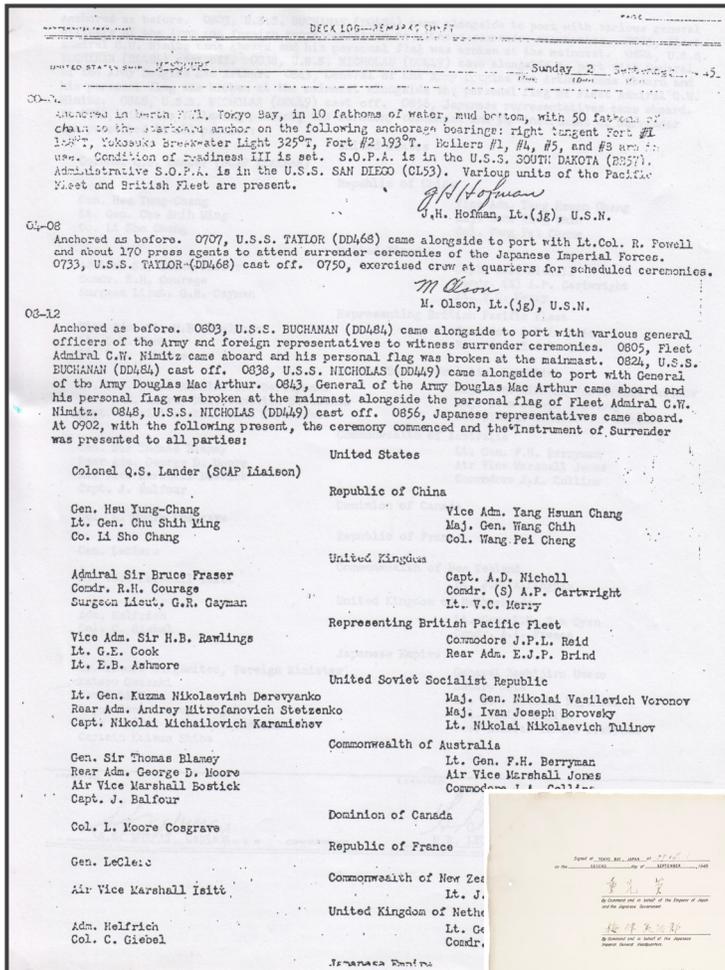
As the documents on the previous page indicate, "America [was] not fighting the Japanese people, but [was] fighting the military clique which has enslaved the Japanese people." The leaflet listed cities, but "we cannot promise that only these cities will be among those attacked, but at least four will be, so heed this warning and evacuate these cities immediately." Firebombing raids continued over Japan, culminating with the most lethal raids on August 6th and August 9th when an atomic bomb was dropped first over Hiroshima and then Nagasaki. The immediate loss of life was estimated in excess of 200,000 people. Finally on August 15, Emperor Hirohito offered surrender—the other military were unwilling to concede defeat. The Japanese people heard their emperor's voice on the radio for the first time.

The instrument of surrender was signed formally on **September 2, 1945** on the deck of the USS *Missouri* (BB 63) in Tokyo Harbor. The deck log of the *Missouri* lists in detail all the dignitaries representing the U.S., Republic of China, United Kingdom, British Pacific Fleet, USSR, Commonwealth of Australia, Dominion of Canada, Republic of

France, Commonwealth of New Zealand, United Kingdom of Netherlands, and the Japanese Empire.

Two ships, the USS *Buchanan* and USS *Nicholas*, came alongside the *Missouri* and Fleet Admiral Nimitz and General of the Army Mac Arthur came aboard, followed by Japanese representatives. At 9:02 AM the ceremony commenced and the Instrument of Surrender was presented to all parties.

The deck log lists all the participants from the US Navy and the US Army who were present at the signing, as well as officers of other nations.



The original signed document of surrender is in the National Archives. It can be viewed at this link: <https://www.archives.gov/historical-docs/todays-doc/index.html?dod-date=902>

Aboard the USS *Missouri*, this instrument of surrender was signed on September 2, 1945, by the Japanese envoys Foreign Minister Mamoru Shigemitsu and Gen. Yoshiji Umezu. Prepared by the U.S. War

Department and approved by President Harry S. Truman, it set out in eight short paragraphs the complete capitulation of Japan. The short second paragraph went straight to the heart of the matter: "We hereby proclaim the unconditional surrender to the Allied Powers of the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters and of all Japanese armed forces and all armed forces under Japanese control wherever situated."

Whereas V-J Day on August 14th had celebrated the end of the war in the Pacific, the war was truly over with the Surrender on the USS *Missouri* in September.

## Welcome to New Board & Committee Members

Thank you to **Rich Eisengruber** who has agreed to serve as Assistant Treasurer with Lucy Parker, Treasurer. Rich is retired and enjoys being with his grandkids, travel, reading, gardening, riding his bike on the Monon Trail. He has also served in the military for three years (1963-66) as an artillery officer in the Marine Corps. He served at Camp Lejeune, NC and Quantico, VA.

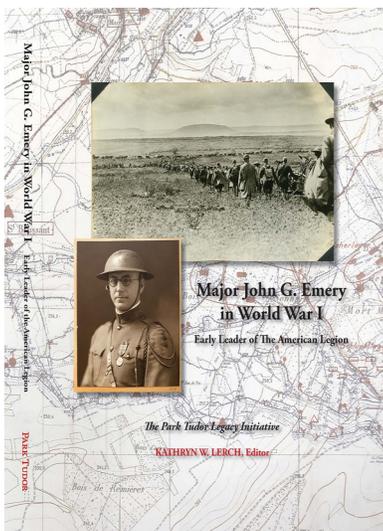
Another new board member is **Art Liphard** and we'll include information about him next month.

**Program Coordinator:** The WWIIRT Program Coordinator is the principal point of contact for inviting, scheduling and supporting speakers at the WWIIRT meetings. This position still needs someone who is willing to 'learn the trade'. See the July Newsletter for details of tasks.

It is not too late to put forth your name as we always need volunteers and this is a great way to meet fellow members who share a similar interest in our veterans and history. Not all the slots are filled however! If you are able to help as program coordinator or serve on the committee, or greet members, etc., please send an email to one of these board members and we will forward your offer to President Charles Holt and appropriate board members. We value your enthusiasm and interest in our organization! We'll get through this together! Also, if you wish to suggest a new member—neighbor or work colleague—pass on their name and contact information to Karl Kleinbub: knj1002@myninestar.net Thank you! **Charles Russell** (re programs): charlieru@aol.com & **Kathryn Lerch** (re other vacant positions) klerch@parktudor.org

### NEW BOOK JUST OFF THE PRESS THIS JUNE!

#### *Major John G. Emery in World War I & Early Leader of the American Legion*



This monograph is based on Emery's personal letters, military papers, journals, his personally authored American Legion magazine articles, and two albums of photographs. It offers an intimate look at soldiers' day-to-day life on the battlefields of France and their poignant encounters with French citizens in war-torn communities. This hardcover 8 ½ x 11 book is 180 pages and includes an index. It features more than 250 of his photographs, dozens of original maps, personal letters, and reminiscences about his WWI experiences in the 18th Infantry, 1st Division, of the AEF. After the war, Emery who was from Grand Rapids, Michigan, was the 3rd commander of The American Legion. He led and similarly documented the Legion's 250-man delegation to France in 1921. **\$35.00 includes media rate shipping and handling.** Please make checks payable to **Park Tudor School, "Legacy"** in notes line and mail to me at 711 E 58th Street, Indpls, In 46220 as I am not at school every day.

Our next book going to press this fall will honor fellow Hoosiers, Ray Featherstone, Senior & Junior. **US Submarine Chaser #38 in World War I "My Dad in the Motor Boat Navy"** Thank you for supporting our projects, which honor and remember our veterans! Kathryn Lerch, Director Park Tudor Legacy Initiative klerch@parktudor.org

Questions about the Legacy Initiative Project, go to: <https://www.parktudor.org/legacy> or contact Kathryn via email