



## From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

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

Fall Greetings! Hard to believe, but some trees ARE changing! Another program/meeting you surely will NOT want to miss--either in person or by Zoom this month: Two American vets of the 20-year Afghanistan war will be speaking to us. If you missed last month's program/meeting about a WWI U-boat chaser; what a story it was...with the twist that when the war ended their mission got even more dangerous--de-mining the English Channel! In person numbers go up each month...HOOAAH! If you want to help in any way, let us know--we especially need more A-V help. Donations/drawing items are always welcome.

*Charles Allen Holt, D.O.*

**Oct. 25, 2021, 7:00 PM In-Person & Zoom**

**Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Social! 7:00 Greetings & 7:10**

**Ozzie's History Report**

**GUEST SPEAKERS**

**Kyle Carone and Ryan Zimpleman**

**Kyle & Ryan enlisted together and are Army Veterans who served multiple tours in Afghanistan, Iraq, & other hot spots**

**Be sure to make a dinner reservation early  
as this will be a popular program!**

**Meeting Starts 7:00 PM promptly**

Please use Zoom link on website to join each month.

### CONTENTS

Page 1 Program

Page 2 Ozzie's Trivia

Pages 3-4 Information on Speakers

Page 5-7 Graveyard of Empires article

Page 8 Reminders and Future programs



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

7:00 Program In person & Zoom

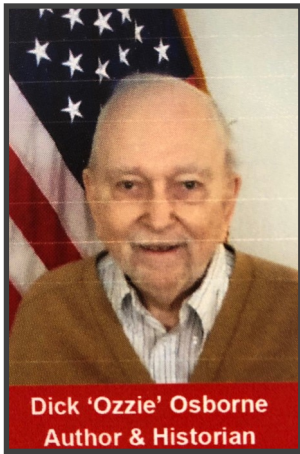
### 2021 DINNERS:

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**

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@mytwinestars.net](mailto:knj1002@mytwinestars.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.



## WW II TRIVIA FOR OCTOBER 2021

- Finland had over 80,000 people killed during the war. Percentage-wise, the was 7 times US losses.
- Due to war jitters on the US West Coast the cities of Tacoma and Walla Walla, Washington were blacked out on the night of December 8, 1941. There was no need for a blackout in Spokane, howev-

er. That city was fogged over.

- At the Nuremberg Trials after the war Albert Speer cooperated fully with the Allied interrogators. The other Nazis deeply resented this so Speer had to be kept in a separate cell all by himself for his own safety. Speer eventually became known as the *Good Nazi*.
- The small US Communist Party in the US functioned throughout the war. Stalin ordered it to maintain a neutral stance and the FBI carefully monitored its every action.
- In 1945 the US federal budget was \$100 billion. In 1939 it has been \$9 billion.
- The acronym WAVES stands for *Women Appointed for Volunteer Emergency Service*.
- Canada provided US industry with 40% of its aluminum and 95% of its nickel.
- Audie Murphy from Texas was America's most decorated war hero. He was number 7 of 12 children. His family was dirt poor. When he was 12 his father abandoned the family. When he was 16 his mother died. Three of his siblings went to orphanages.
- Audie and the others stuck together and got by as best they could. Rabbits were one of their main food items and Audie became an expert marksman shooting them with his .22-caliber rifle. Most people used shotguns to shoot rabbits.
- The OSS did not operate in Latin America. That was FBI territory.

**... MORE TRIVIA NEXT MONTH**

## Afghanistan Then & Now

Thank you to Board member, Bill Ervin for suggesting his former students from Butler University! This will be a very interesting and informative program!



### Special Guest Speakers

**Ryan L. Zimpleman & Kyle Carone**



#### Zimpleman Enlisted 2002

Branch: Special Forces (Green Berets) 2007-present

Position: Senior Engineer Sergeant

Branch: Psychological Operations 2003-2007

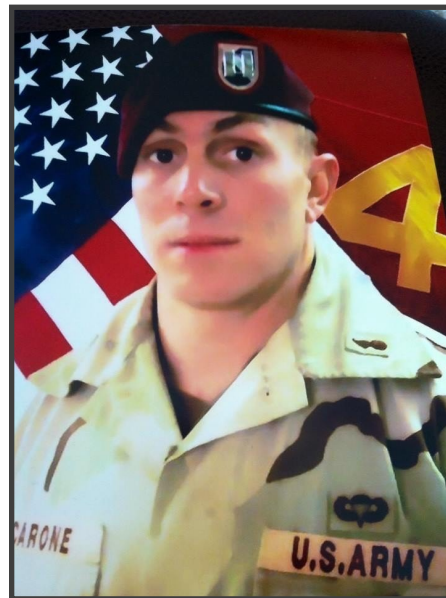
Position: Psychological Operations Specialist

Duty Station: Rickenbacker Airbase

Highest Rank: Sergeant First Class

Deployments: 2003- 2004 - Kosovo; 2007 – Serbia; 2009 – Afghanistan (Kandahar/Qalat); 2011 – Senegal Africa; 2012 – Serbia; 2014 - Croatia; 2016 – Afghanistan (Bagram); 2019 - Thailand

Zimpleman resides in —



#### Carone Commissioned ROTC 2001

Branch: Ordnance/Logistics Duty Station: Fort Bragg, NC

Highest Rank: Captain

Deployments: 2002-2003: Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan. Position: Detachment Commander, 503rd Maintenance Company; Addition Duty, Field Ordering Office

2004-2005: Camp Taji, Iraq (Northern Baghdad). Position; Assistant Brigade S4, 46th Corp Support Group.

2009-2010: Involuntary Reactivation: Forward Observation Base (FOB) Falcon (Southern Baghdad). Position; FOB Mayor, 30th Heavy Brigade Combat Team, North Carolina, Army National Guard. Carone resides in Ohio and is married to Stefanie Carone (LTC, Army) with 2 sons DJ and Luca.



## Additional Resources for October's Program and Guest Speakers



### Learn more about Afghanistan & US Role there

Kyle Carone and Ryan Zimpleman enlisted together. Both are Army Veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq with multiple tours in country. They will be our presenters in October! You will not want to miss this timely program

**Hear more about the US & Allied mission in Afghanistan 2001-2021. . .**



Zimpleman (left) with Moor Mohammed; (right) with team



# “Graveyard of Empires:” Why Attempts to Invade Afghanistan Always Fail

By [Thomas Kissel](#) August 20, 2021



Foreign invasions of Afghanistan have historically resulted in disaster. Credit: [US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan](#), CC BY-ND

You may have noticed that when [President Joe Biden](#) made his speech on the rise of the Taliban in Afghanistan on Monday he referred to the country as the “graveyard of empires.”

The poignant phrase has stuck to the middle-eastern country throughout its turbulent history. With no attributable source, the nickname embodies a universal plight experienced by all nations — no matter how powerful — that attempt to invade Afghanistan.

Foreign powers have failed to successfully rule over Afghanistan, or establish a functioning state there, ever since the British Empire attempted to install its government there during the 1800’s. The country’s disparate, sprawling population is divided by an immense mountain range known as the Hindu Kush, and is made up of a vast array of ethnically unique tribes.

Afghanistan was first invaded by the British Empire during the “Great Game,” a heated competition between Britain and the Russian Empire for colonial power over Central and South Asia. Britain had already established a base in India and sought to expand its power further into Central Asia. Afghanistan was ruled at the time by Dost Mohammad Khan, a member of the

Barakazy clan. Britain planned to eject Khan from power and insert a ruler of their choice — the former Afghan leader Shah Shoja — in a move to get the upper hand over Russia.

The British army entered Kandahar in 1839 and Shoja was crowned shah, but the Afghans were enraged by the idea of a leader installed by a foreign power, and waged war against the British army. The British eventually succumbed to the Afghan resistance and Dost Mohammad was restored to the throne in 1843. Britain returned to Afghanistan again in 1879 and 1919 in renewed attempts to exert influence in the country, but both conflicts were hastily shut down by the Afghans.

## Afghanistan's fragmented country is challenging for foreign invaders

Both colonial and modern attempts —like that of the Soviet Union and America — to invade Afghanistan have been challenged by the country's brutal geography. Afghanistan is a landlocked country bordered by Pakistan, Iran, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and China. Because Afghanistan is an inland, landlocked country, there is no direct access for invasion: countries that wish to reach Afghanistan must pass through or over one of its neighbors beforehand, making an unannounced, seamless entrance impossible.

The geography of the region also presents a huge challenge for foreign powers. The country is overpowered by the Hindu Kush mountain range which fragments the country into sprawling valleys and winding roadways.

A wide variety of ethno-linguistic groups (and even more tribes) proliferate across its deeply partitioned terrain. The four main ethnic groups in Afghanistan are Pashtuns, Tajiks, Hazaras, and Uzbeks, but the country has many more smaller groups, which include Aimaqs, Turkmens, Balochs, Pashais, Nuristanis, Gujjars, Arabs, Brahuis, Qzilbashs, Pamiris, Kyrgyzs and Sadats.

This intense geographic and ethnic fragmentation has resulted in the lack of a unified national identity. Many Afghans feel allegiance to their ethnic and tribal identities over the idea of any national "Afghan identity." This tendency, along with the isolation caused by the Hindu Kush mountain range, has historically allowed for local governments to take precedence over individual regions rather than come under the rule of any central government.

Invading countries face the challenge of installing what the region itself could never successfully execute: a state capable of controlling all of Afghanistan. Numerous world superpowers much larger and stronger than Afghanistan have attempted — Britain, the Soviet Union, and most recently, the United States — and none have been able to install a stable, long-lasting political structure within the region.

Online source: <https://greekreporter.com/2021/08/20/graveyard-of-empires-why-attempts-to-invade-afghanistan-always-fail/?nowprocket=1>



## Additional Reading Suggestion

Here is a link to an excellent (eight-page) article on Dexter Filkins' book, *The Forever War*. (New York Times Book Review Best Book of the Year 2008)

<https://www.nytimes.com/2008/09/14/books/review/Stone-t.html>

Or, read a short excerpt from that article here. . .

"Filkins opens "The Forever War" with a prologue describing the attack on the Sunni fortress of Falluja by the First Battalion, Eighth Marines. Embedded (and how) with Bravo Company, Filkins shares the deadly risks of street fighting in a hostile city in which the company, commanded by an outstanding officer, takes its objective and also a harrowing number of casualties. The description makes us understand quite vividly how we didn't want to be there and also makes ever so comprehensible the decision by George W. Bush and Dick Cheney to give our last excursion into Asia a pass. ("Bring 'em on!" said the president famously about this one.)" Filkins had been covering the Muslim world for years before the invasion of Iraq. . . ."



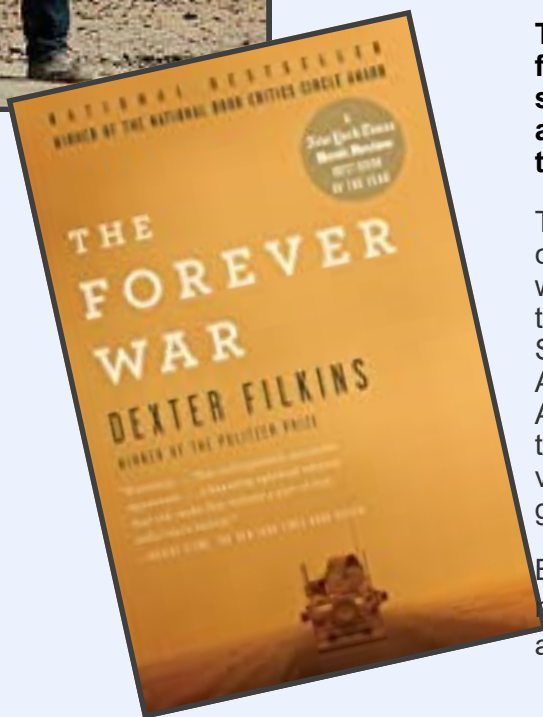
Dexter Filkins in  
battle for Falljuah  
Nov. 2004



**The definitive account of America's conflict with Islamic fundamentalism and a searing exploration of its human costs—an instant classic of war reporting from the Pulitzer Prize winning journalist.**

Through the eyes of Dexter Filkins, a foreign correspondent for the *New York Times*, we witness the rise of the Taliban in the 1990s, the aftermath of the attack on New York on September 11th, and the American wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. Filkins is the only American journalist to have reported on all these events, and his experiences are conveyed in a riveting narrative filled with unforgettable characters and astonishing scenes.

Brilliant and fearless, *The Forever War* is not just about America's wars after 9/11, but about the nature of war itself.



## REMINDERS: New 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 is now working on a lecture - or 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."

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

The WW2 Round Table Board hopes you enjoyed our September program—and that you will join us again in October. . . . Reminder: Did you know, too, that some of our members and their families also have some incredible stories to share? The Board would like to encourage you to contact board members or **Kathryn Lerch** ([klerch@parktudor.org](mailto:klerch@parktudor.org)) if you would like to share a story or two!

### SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH THE WW2 ROUND TABLE!

Kathryn can help with scanning photos, documents, and putting together a Power-Point for a presentation. You may make an appointment for a time slot before one of our monthly dinners, or at another time by special arrangement: **5:00-5:30** or **5:30-6:00**. Just let us know how we may help!

We would love to have our winter meetings feature some of our members' best stories—highlighting especially accounts from WWII—from any branch of service, including also civilian stories, and stories from any nation! Let's document and save your family history.

This "service" is related to the Legacy Initiative Project at Park Tudor School. For more information on this project go to: [www.parktudor.org/legacy](http://www.parktudor.org/legacy)



## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- ◆ November: WWII Veteran, Bob Baker, was in US Army Air Corps and flew on B29s. He will be accompanied by his son, Ken, 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.
- ◆ 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)