

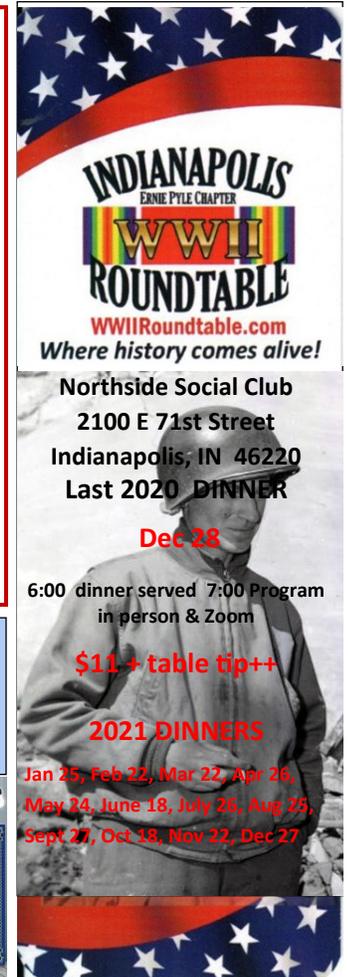


From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

December 2020 Newsletter www.WWIIroundtable.com

Wow...winter and the holidays' season is definitely here! I hope you had a blessed Thanksgiving and already cleaned out your gutters... 'tis a bit chilly outside. But inside, the WWII Roundtable's many members have been keeping warm by working hard to continue our great organization, despite the pandemic! We are not going to let our 30+ years of existence flame out...but we need YOUR help. There are lots of ways we can plug you in to help, whether by Internet or Zoom and if you want to attend our hybrid dinner programs/meetings in 2021, we can use help there, as well. We are always looking for leads on potential speakers, links to interesting articles on WWII or the Korean War era; obituaries of former members; suggestions for speakers, or veterans and interesting links to specials or documentaries, etc., as well as donations of money or drawing items. I am looking forward to hearing some great SHORT stories about our members' military experiences—PLEASE RSVP to Karl Kleinbub ASAP if you want to tell a story and remember we have an audience that includes some children, as well, so be careful about what story you want to relate—we don't want to inadvertently offend someone. **Although we had hoped to meet in person in December, the board decided this was not a good idea and voted to have only virtual Zoom meetings in December and January.** We will decide later whether to resume hybrid meetings or not. Count on us to provide a great Zoom program, however. Please RSVP if you plan to tell a special story! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Charles Holt, D.O.



December 28, 2020, 7:00 PM via Zoom Only Sharing Interesting Stories

Evening program begins at 7:00 with **Ozzie's Presentation**
& **Members Share a Special Story**

Zoom link: [click here to join just prior to our 7:00 PM designated start time:](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87941923306?pwd=K29pN2NSU0JUTUp4VnM4L3F5dzBOQT09)

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87941923306?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87941923306?pwd=K29pN2NSU0JUTUp4VnM4L3F5dzBOQT09)
[pwd=K29pN2NSU0JUTUp4VnM4L3F5dzBOQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87941923306?pwd=K29pN2NSU0JUTUp4VnM4L3F5dzBOQT09)



When you RSVP, please let Karl Kleinbub know if you wish to be included on the list to "tell a special story". This is to be no longer than 3-5 minutes. You will relate your story via Zoom. It may be a favorite holiday event you remember or what you (or a relative) experienced while in the service, or something from Christmas or Hanukkah.

[More information on p. 2]



2021 Annual 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
Veteran \$20; Non-Veteran \$25;
WW2 Veterans free membership

Your RSVP will help us organize the order of our speakers and we look forward to coordinating an entertaining program! Last-minute story tellers may be added, but only if there is time.

Email Karl Kleinbub: knj1002@myninestar.net

Meeting Protocol

Our December Dinner/Program will revert to a Zoom only meeting and we will not meet at the North Side Social Club. **Remember on Zoom, be sure your device is set to mute! Go here to review how to do this:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Oi5qqx5CYm4>



Enjoy dinner in your own home! Then, tune in to Ozzie's presentation, followed by our popular "Time for Stories" Program. For those preferring to attend virtually, the Zoom post-dinner program will begin at 7 P.M., so please sign in between 6:45 and 6:55. Remember, our newsletter and webpage will also keep you informed of changes. **INFORMATION DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER January 11th** Please send new items to editor, Kathryn Lerch: c/o_klerch@parktudor.org Refer to our newsletter's first page "bookmark" for future program dates in 2021.

Carol Mutter invites you to the patriotic "Shining the Light" Daily Festivities

November 27 – December 31 Downtown, Indianapolis

12:00 PM – National Anthem (Audio Only)

5:15 PM – Inner street lights ON

5:30 PM – Monument Circle wash Lighting ON

6:00 PM – America the Beautiful (Audio / Amber Monument Lighting)

6:30 PM – IPL Lights off on Circle Side until Midnight

6:30 PM – Signature Salute / Holiday Program (Does not play 11/27) Happy Holidays Projection Loop

7:00 PM – Armed Forces Medley (Audio / Red Monument Lighting)

8:00 PM – Signature Salute / Holiday Program Happy Holidays Projection Loop

10:00 PM – Signature Salute / Holiday Program Happy Holidays Projection Loop

10:30 PM – National Anthem / Flag Lighting on Monument

12:00 AM – Projection off / IPL Windows on both Circle and Meridian St.

8:15 AM - Monument Circle wash Lighting OFF

The Board Invites you to Participate in the December Dinner Program . . .

Our Roundtable Board is hoping a few photos and an interesting story will entice our members and guests to also share some wonderful stories—so start preparing now! The first dozen stories will get priority, so RSVP quickly with your topic to get in the queue. If you are zooming the meeting and have a story to tell, you will be able to share also! To get you thinking, be sure to read a special Christmas account written by a G.I. in the 10th Armored Division in December 1944. This appears later in the newsletter on page 4.



The Christmas spirit is well in evidence on the Korean front as Seventh Division GIs spell out a snowy holiday message to the folks at home, This is a colorized black & white photo taken in Dec 1952. (Facebook 2020)

(If you need refresher on Gen. McAuliffe and Bastogne, click on last line of this link:

"Nuts!" – The Story of the Famous American Reply to the German Surrender Ultimatum at Bastogne
<https://militaryhistorynow.com/2020/09/15/nuts-the-story-of-the-famous-american-reply-to-the-german-surrender-ultimatum-at-bastogne/>



Christmas spirit in Vietnam (Pinterest)

If you haven't paid your 2021 dues yet, paying online is really convenient, plus donations can also be included for year end tax deductions! See page 1 for information. Thank you!

WW II TRIVIA for December 2020



The Nazi government of Germany attempted to remove all religious elements from the Christmas season. They renamed the season *YULETIDE* and patterned it after ancient Germanic ceremonies celebrated at this time of year honoring the winter solstice and celebrating the rebirth of the sun and the birth of a new year.

Family gatherings, festive times, gift giving and special attention to children were to be continued.

Since the swastika had, in ancient times, often represent the sun it was to be a major symbol of Yuletide. It was advised that women bake swastika-shaped cookies and biscuits and use swastika printed wrapping paper and use other decorations showing the swastika.

It was also recommended that children, especially boys, be given gifts of chocolate soldiers, toy guns, tanks and airplanes.

The ancient god of war, *Odin*, - good wars that benefitted the German people - was to be honored and seen as a generous giver of gifts and a unifying force for the German people just as the Nazis had unified the German people.

Also, Hitler was to be worked into the yuletide celebrations and was, at times, referred to as the *Savior Fuehrer*.

The lyrics to the song *Silent Night* were changed to eliminate all religious references and new songs were written.

Religious services of Christmas were still permitted in churches, homes and on private property. Nothing of a religious nature, however, was to be performed in public or on public property. And it was recommended that if Mary and the baby Jesus were displayed that they be shown as blonds.



Hitler and Nazi officials celebrate Christmas in the Lowenbraukeller in Munich in 1941 [<https://rarehistoricalphotos.com/nazi-christmas-party-hitler-1941/>]

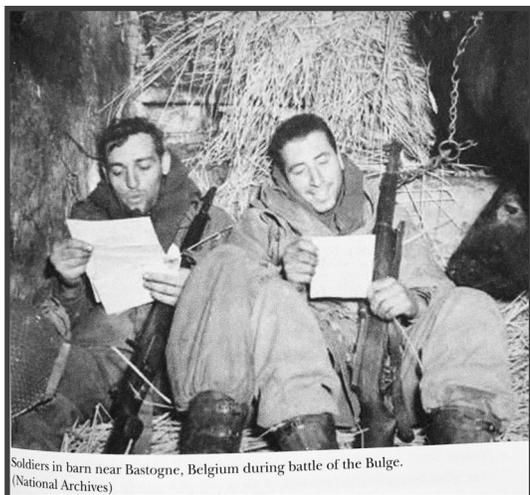


St. Nicholas replaced with Norse god Odin
<https://rarehistoricalphotos.com/nazi-christmas-party-hitler-1941/>

What is special about December?

Pearl Harbor! “A date that will live in Infamy” according to FDR & the Battle of the Bulge, in late December 1944 are two significant December events. The television series, *Band of Brothers*, brought the story of the German encirclement at snowy Bastogne to life. A collection of letters written by 1st Lt Bruce Handeyside who served in the 10th Armored Division reveal something of this difficult time. Here are some short excerpts from his letters written between Dec. 29, '44 and Jan. 10, '45.

“Somewhere in Belgium Friday Dec. 29th . . . You are probably worried because you haven't heard from me



Soldiers in barn near Bastogne, Belgium during battle of the Bulge.
(National Archives)

for a while. I am perfectly O.K. We have not been able to receive or send mail for 10 days until yesterday. I recd my bed roll yesterday with two carton of cigarettes, cigarette lighter, candles + pen pencil set inside. Thanks a lot—that was a swell Christmas present. Everyone gets a big kick out of the huge red candles—they will last a long time. There are a lot more packages for us at the APO so I will probably get some more tomorrow. We have been in a rather hot spot for the past 10 days or so but everything is alright now. In a couple of weeks I will be able to tell you more about it; you have to wait 14 days before you can discuss any operation. Anyway, the Germans hit us with everything in the book, including bombing + strafing—and a few things not in the book such as using captured American tanks + dressing in G. I. clothes. I have lost my Val pack + musette bag with practically everything I own inside. I do not have a single clean pair of socks, handkerchief or underwear—nor any uniform except what I am wearing. We have been living in more or less a

bombproof barn for several days. Christmas eve we experienced our first big bombardment. For Christmas dinner, we had half a cup of soluble coffee and a can of meat + vegetable stew; that is all we had all day. But we are making up for it tomorrow—French toast for breakfast and a real turkey dinner with all the trimmings! I am fine and in excellent health so don't worry about me. I believe the heinies have made their last big push—and it failed as a result. I believe the war will be materially shortened. Before they started on the big push Hitler told them (quoting Frederick the Great) 'if you fail in this, this is the last word you shall ever hear from me.' Happy New Year, Love, Bruce”

On the 31st of December, Handeyside wrote another letter: “Dear Folks—Happy New Year! Today was just like Christmas since I received a Xmas package from you . . . They were wonderful packages with just what I wanted in them—slipper, cigarettes, cigarette lighter, cards, books—and especially food—peanuts, fruitcake + candy! . . . I am awfully glad you sent me the fruit cake and I have become very fond of it . . . I took the pretty wrapping paper + ribbon and pinned it over the blackout blankets on the window + door; then I lit my two big red candles, so our “bomb proof” barn looks quite festive. There were chickens living in the barn before us but we ate them during the time we were surrounded and were about out of rations. We still have 2 real cute + playful kittens and a dog in the barn with us. The dog insists on sleeping on top of my bed roll. We have stoves in the barn + lots of straw to keep quite comfortable in spite of 4 inches of snow on the ground outside. . . . We are having another turkey dinner tomorrow for New Year's Day—and pancakes for breakfast. It is sure a wonderful feeling to be out of the trap we were in. Will be home with you to celebrate next New Years. . . . [more from Handeyside in March 1945]

[Account taken from Handeyside Collection, pp 183-219. *Words of War: Wartime Memories from the Four Points on the Compass Vol. V* (2011), Park Tudor Legacy Initiative Project]

We invite you to sign up for John Shively's Virtual Lecture Series beginning January 2021

Join historian/author and WWII Round Table John Shively member for a series of informative and engaging GoTo webinar lectures this winter and next spring. "I have visited nearly every island battlefield in the Pacific and am now a battlefield tour guide with Valor Tours. I have guided tours to Okinawa, Tarawa, Pearl Harbor, and Guadalcanal. Next year I will add Midway and Samoa to my tour list as guide. I have had the privilege to give lectures on the Pacific war on three cruises to the Western Pacific over the past six years." Each lecture (January—May) will be on the second Monday evening of the month at 7:00 PM (EST), with a repeat the following Saturday at 4:00 PM. [Post-May dates will be announced later.]

Questions? Wish to sign up? Please contact John Shively at indjcs@aol.com or 765-491-7010

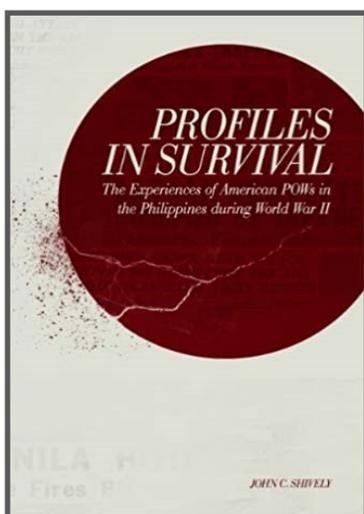
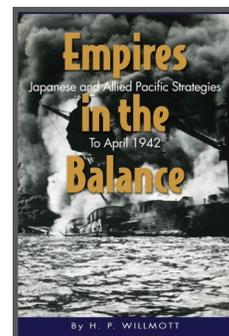
List of Upcoming Lectures & Dates

- Japanese Strategic War Objectives [1/11/21@7; rpt 1/16@4]
- First 24-Hours of the War [2/8@7; 2/13@4]
- Operation Cartwheel, An Overview [3/8@7; 3/13@4]
- Kokoda Track Campaign [4/13@7; 4/18@4]
- Battle of Milne Bay [5/11@7; 5/16@4]
- Australian Counteroffensive [TBA]
- Guadalcanal, The First Offensive
- Central Solomon's Campaign
- The Sad Fate of Lark Force
- Yamamoto Shoot-down
- The Four Japanese Attacks on the USS *Franklin*, the Purdue Connection
- PT-109, John Kennedy, Plum Pudding Island

"Japanese Strategic War Objectives"

The lecture I plan to present in January is the first in a series I have put together on the battles in the Southwest Pacific Theater, a little known part of the war. The first lecture is entitled Japanese Strategic War Objectives. It will cover the period from the initial attacks on December 7/8, 1941, the expansion of the Japanese defensive perimeter, and the plans to expand the perimeter into the South Pacific that threatened Australia. The lecture will end with the battle of Midway. This lecture will set the stage for the Japanese moves into New Guinea and the Solomon Islands to cut off the lines of communication between the West Coast of American, Hawaii, and Australia, the following lecture.

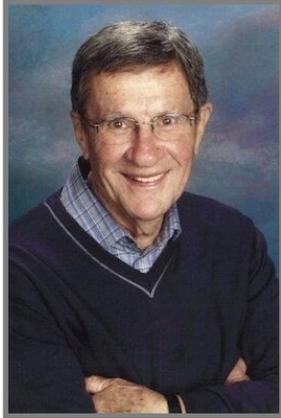
To get warmed up to the subject of the Pacific in WW2, Shively recommends H.P. Willmott's book, *Empires in the Balance*. The review on Amazon states: "The respected British military historian H. P. Willmott presents the first of a three-volume appraisal of the strategic policies of the countries involved in the Pacific War. Remarkable in its scope and depth of research, his thoughtful analysis covers the whole range of political, economic, military, and naval activity in the Pacific. This first volume comprehensively covers events between December 1941 and April 1942, concluding with the Doolittle Raid on April 18." [Available on Amazon and elsewhere]



The stories of seven men and one woman from Indiana who survived the horrors of captivity under the Japanese in the Pacific during World War II are captured in vivid detail by author John Shively. These Hoosiers stationed in the Philippines were ordered to surrender following the fall of Bataan and Corregidor in 1942. It was the largest surrender of American armed forces in U.S. history. For many, it was the beginning of three years of hell starting with the infamous Bataan Death March, facing brutal conditions in POW camps in the Philippines, and horrific journeys to Japan for some onboard what came to be known as hell ships. Former Indiana governor Edgar D. Whitcomb, one of those featured in the book, notes that the American prisoners had to endure unimaginable misery and brutality at the hands of sadistic Japanese guards, as they were routinely beaten and many were executed for the most minor offenses, or for mere sport. Shively, said Whitcomb, has done a masterful job of recounting the realities of life as a Japanese prisoner. These poignant stories attest to the innate enduring human struggle and drive to survive, tenacity in the face of adversity, and the dogged determination and unwillingness to give up when all seemed lost and hopeless. In addition to Whitcomb, those profiled include Irvin Alexander, Harry Brown, William Clark, James Duckworth, Eleanor Garen, Melvin McCoy, and Hugh Sims. [Available on Amazon or at Indiana Historical Society Bookstore] A second book by Shively will be highlighted in March 2021 newsletter.

John uses GoToMeeting software. Viewers should download this software prior to attending his first program from this site: <https://app.gotomeeting.com/> (free) or use this link: <https://www.gotomeeting.com> He is still working out some minor sound glitches on his end involving special effects on a few of the slides, but each program will be highly informative. All of the lectures are scheduled for the second Monday of the month and they repeat on the following Saturday.

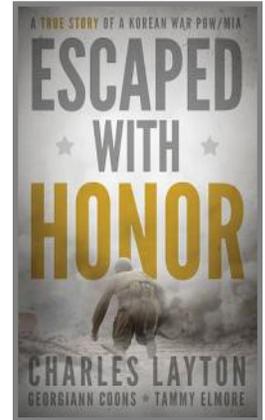
News about our WWII RT Members Since the Last Newsletter



Last Post for Charles Edward Layton, Korean War Veteran

Noblesville, passed away on Friday, November 6, 2020 at the age of 92

“He was drafted by the United States Army, served in Korea as an Army Ranger, and at the age of twenty-two found himself a POW/MIA with 36 other men. After seventeen weeks he led a daring escape that ended the captivity; however it instilled a desire in him to do good for people on a daily basis. The experience haunted him for most of his adult life until he took the opportunity to put his memories to paper in his book, *Escaped with Honor*.” (His memoir is available online through Amazon and other sources.)



In the Local News reflecting on Dec. 7th, 1944 . . .

One of our Veterans Remembers his 1944 D-Day Mission

December 7th, 2020 “marks 79 years since 2,403 U.S. military members and civilians were killed when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. That chaotic and tragic event in 1941 marked the beginning of the U.S. involvement in World War II.

Robert Pedigo, now 97, was a teen and the youngest member of his B-24 bomber crew. He's the only living survivor among his other Air Force brethren.”

[FYI: He flew 30 missions over Europe as a bomber-gunner and chief armorer on *Silent Yokum* (B-24J) and *King Thor* (B-24H). He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, three bronze stars, as well as other service medals.]

For copyright reasons, the December 4th article in *The Indianapolis Star* cannot be printed here, but the full story may be found by going to this link:

<https://www.wrtv.com/news/local-news/indianapolis/it-was-do-or-die-hoosier-air-force-veteran-recalls-world-war-ii>



“By 1944 . . . Stewart managed to get assigned to a Liberator squadron that was deploying to England to join the mighty Eighth Air Force.”
For more on Stewart, go to: <https://www.wearethemighty.com/mighty-history/jimmy-stewart-bomber-pilot-ww2/>



Robert E. Pedigo, WWII Roundtable Member

Another article written in 2019 can also be found in the *Indiana Washington Times Herald*:

https://www.washtimesherald.com/news/if-it-wasnt-for-d-day-we-wouldnt-have-the-liberties-weve-got-today/article_fea78371-fbbc-5209-a785-24801dbdbd3b.html

To learn more about Pedigo's outstanding WW2 military service, go to the American Air Museum site: <http://www.americanairmuseum.com/person/188974>

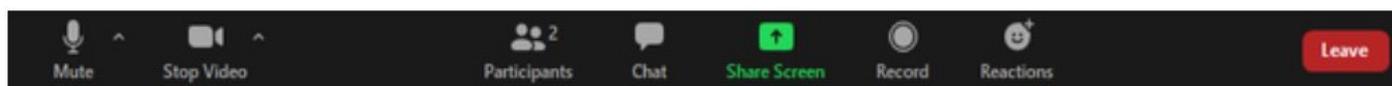
In both articles Pedigo also mentions his squadron commander—Jimmy Stewart of Hollywood fame. I'll bet Bob can tell us more stories about his operations commander!

UPDATE ON ZOOMING OUR MEETINGS



meeting (right)

Our president, Chuck Holt says: “The EASIEST way to view the monthly meeting/program is MERELY to click on the highlighted LINK on the Zoom announcement, which will be posted on our website and in our emails sent from our website (remember, you need to register on the website to receive email notices). [The link is in each month’s newsletter, too.] It is VERY simple and you do NOT have to have a Zoom account!!!” If you want all the whistles and bells, you can also sign up, but this is not necessary. In November more than 20 people joined our dinner meeting via Zoom. “Sample” screen shot of video mode for a Zoom



Review of zooming how-to: please take a few minutes to become comfortable with Zoom. Use the link below to read about how to get set up and how to use the Zoom system. It very easy and has great potential. It is a Zoom Tutorial. https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac#h_97174a74-246a-4e54-8e9c-22b55cd0b665 **To join a meeting: you only need to click on link available on our website or in this newsletter which is provided by our tech guru, Charlie Russell.** Just a reminder, there are a couple tips before your join one of our a sessions. **You may have the option to join meeting session with or without video.** If you join with video, be sure lighting in front of you so that your image is viewable, not a dark silhouette and set your camera (laptop) pretty much level with your face. As soon as the Host opens the meeting you will be immediately entered. I suggest that everyone do this well before the start time of the meeting. 10-15 minutes is not too early, or in other words between 6:45-7:00. After all, you do not want to miss the opening of the meeting!

BE SURE YOU ARE MUTED ONCE YOU LOG ON! BACKGROUND NOISE AND TALKING CARRIES ACROSS MICROPHONES TO OUR SPEAKER

Zoom protocol for the December Story-sharing Meeting

If you sent an RSVP to tell a story, you will be introduced. Otherwise, remember, not everyone should speak at once. Normally, the moderator will mute everyone then ask the next speaker to unmute. The mute icon is a microphone at the bottom left corner. **Move your cursor to that area; this turns the selection bar on and you may unmute when you are asked to share your story, then re-mute yourself when done.** For our audience, there is a “Chat” icon at the bottom middle of your screen. If you click on it everyone attending the meeting is listed. You can select their name and send them a chat text message while the meeting is going on. You can also send “Everyone” a text message. Response back to you will be indicated by a number in the chat icon . If you need to step away from the meeting to get a cup of coffee, kiss the wife or let the dog out you can “Stop Video” at the lower left of your screen. If you have entered a picture of yourself in your Zoom account profile that image will appear. When you return to the meeting click ‘Start Video ‘ and your camera’s image will come back on-line. **If you have any questions ahead of the meeting, email OR call: Charlie Russell 317-872-2800, charlierru@aol.com**

‘Tis The Season . . . Do you need Stocking Stuffers or Gifts for Someone Special . . .

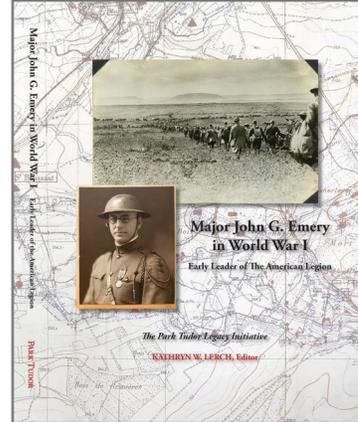
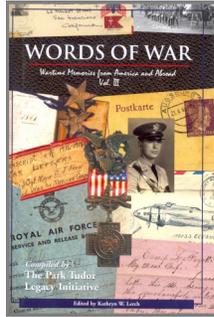
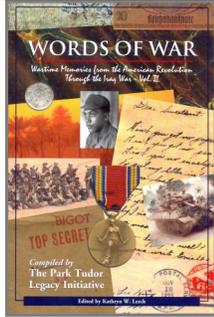
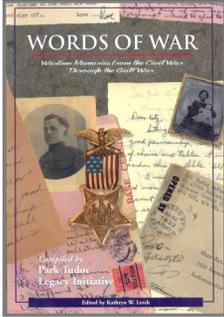
Please consider supporting our Roundtable member-authors who have some excellent books for that special veteran, friend or family member. Feel free to contact any of them if you have questions about which book might be the perfect one! **Richard Osborne** (Ozzie) 317-849-3680 **Kathryn Lerch** (for Park Tudor’s Legacy Project) 317-251--8661 **Kayleen Reusser** 260-273-9264 or **John Shively** 765-491-7010

Please refer to pages 5, 8-9 for suggestions & order forms!

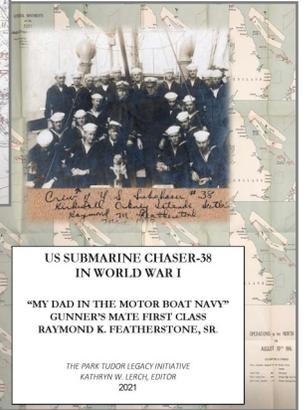
LEGACY INITIATIVE PROJECT PARK TUDOR SCHOOL

7200 N. College Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46240

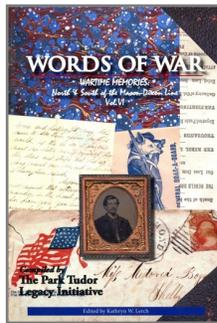
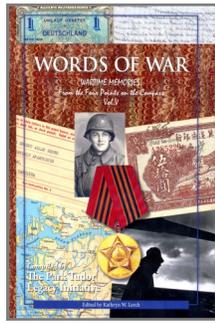
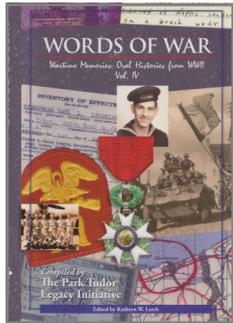
Kathryn Lerch, editor email: klerch@parktudor.org



Newest publication
June 2020



Publication Spring
2021
Preview



Our Mission: "Saving wartime stories from America and around the world"

Contents include unpublished stories from veterans, civilians & persons of local interest	Titles Available (if no longer available at time of order, please substitute with vol. ___ or ___)	Special Sale Price*	Quantity	Total
Forty accounts from letters, reminiscences and journals from America, the Pacific & Europe	Vol. 1 From Civil War to Gulf War (2002) limited copies available	*\$12		
Americans in the Revolutionary & Civil War, WW1, WW2: European & Pacific, theaters, Korea, Vietnam and Iraq	Vol. 2 From the American Revolution Through the Iraq War (2005) (a few copies remain)	\$25		
Civil War, Philippine-American War, WW1, WWII: Europe & Pacific. Highlight: oral history of Deadeyes on Okinawa	Vol. 3 From America & Abroad (2007)	*\$15		
Sixty-some oral history accounts from WWII's amphibious, air and land operations in Europe and the Pacific Theaters	Vol. 4 Oral Histories—WWII (2009)	*\$15		
WWI & WWII compilation of 22 stories: based on oral histories, American and foreign written accounts	Vol. 5 From the Four Points on the Compass (2011)	*\$15		
Civil War accounts: letters & diaries both Union & Confederate	Vol. 6 North & South of the Mason Dixon Line (2013)	*\$18		
New book published in June which commemorates centennial of WWI & American Legion trip to France	Major John G. Emery in WWI & Early Leader of The American Legion (2020)(\$5 / mail)	\$30		

All books are hard cover; Words of War (v. 1-6) have dust jackets; vol. 3-6 average 300+ pages, vol. 6 has index and maps; Emery book is glossy hard-cover, 8.5x11 180 pages including index

Subtotal

Pre-order WWI US Submarine Chaser-38 GM 1/c Raymond Featherstone, Sr. 1917-1919 Please request a price quote and indicate possible # of copies: ____ To be publish late Spring 2021

10% discount for four+ books

No tax (501-c-3)

Thank you for supporting Park Tudor's Legacy Initiative. Please make your check payable to **Park Tudor School**, with "Legacy Initiative" on the memo line and mail to Kathryn Lerch, 711 E. 58th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220 Questions, contact me at: klerch@parktudor.org or 317-250-8661 (cell). Orders will be available for pick up from my home or via mail. Please specify preference below. **CHECKS only—no cash during Covid** 😊 Name:

Ship/handling @\$6 media rate 1-2 books

Address:

Phone: _____ email: _____

pick up at 711 E 58th Indpls or mail to me

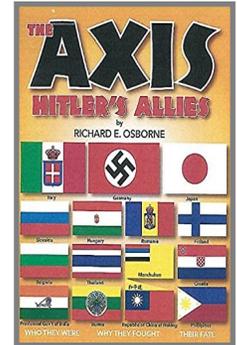
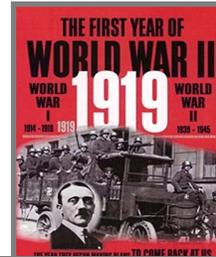
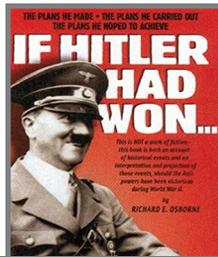
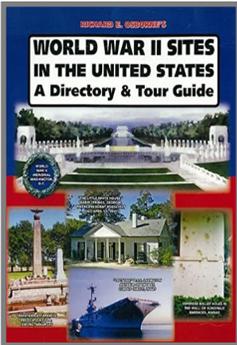
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Richard E. Osborne Selected WWII Books

World War II Roundtable Historian & Trivia Presenter



Contact information for Richard Osborne
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Title	Description	Number
WWII Sites in the United States	This book identifies and locates the hundreds of military facilities that existed in the United States during World War II - Army camps, airfields, naval bases, prisoner of war camps, ordnance plants, ports of embarkation, military hospitals, buildings and homes related to the war effort or any famous individuals of the wartime era, and much more. At many of these sites, memorials have been erected which are not listed in this book because they are so numerous. These memorials can be located by utilizing the companion book - World War II Museums, Memorials, and Historic Displays in the United States.	
Casablanca	The classic movie "Casablanca" is a WW II story, made during WW II for WW II audiences and is loaded with very accurate WW II history which is fully explained in this book. You will learn the actual calendar days of the events in Casablanca and Paris - why Rick couldn't return to America - why there were Germans in Casablanca - and whether or not there was an actual document known as a "letter of transit." You will learn such things as how Rick ran guns to Ethiopia - what he did while he was fighting for the loyalist in Spain - and what mysterious activities he was up to in Paris. The reader is also informed as to why it was difficult for refugees to get out of Casablanca - why they wanted to go to Lisbon - who the "devil" was in Bulgaria that the Bulgarian woman spoke of - what were the Bulgarian couple's chances of reaching America - the significance of Ilsa and Berger being Norwegians - and the differences between the Vichy French and the Free French... and more.	
If Hitler Had Won	This is an account of the actual plans Hitler made for the time when the Axis powers would be victorious... The postwar fates planned for the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union, and Italy are also detailed. Maps of Europe, the Mediterranean area, and parts of Africa project this altered world, circa 1950. Illustrations included in the thought-provoking book feature Hitler's retirement home, designs for future German jet aircraft, the 400,000-seat Nuremberg Stadium, a plan to rebuild Berlin as "Germania," farmhouse designs for the new German settlers in the east, the Me264 "Amerika Bomber," a "Strength Through Joy" advertisement for the Volkswagen and more...	
1919 The First Year of WWII	'The First Year of World War II, 1919', puts forward the idea that the events of 1919 were so significant that they in fact saw the beginning of World War Two, such a short while after the end of the First World War. This book explores the events that took place and discusses their impact. Key events such as Hitler and Mussolini entering politics, the Bolsheviks beginning to win the Russian Civil War and so Stalin gaining power and of course the effect of the severe Treaty of Versailles on an already damaged Germany are covered in detail. But it was not only Europe that saw changes. America entered isolation and prohibition and Japan became a major threat in the far east. All these events undoubtedly had an effect on the war and in turn on the world, but were they the start of the war?	
The Axis: Hitler's Allies	Here are the BAD GUYS of World War II. Fifteen nations comprised the Axis Alliance & 14 of them declared war on the US. All of them declared war on the British Empire. This book, written from the Axis perspective, records their often stormy and sometime treacherous relationships. Here is a mountain of detailed information on the Axis Alliance found in no other book on this subject.	

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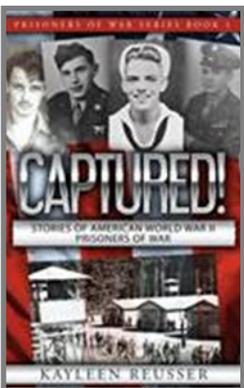
Bluffton, Ind.—Indiana author Kayleen Reusser, known for writing several series of books featuring stories centered on World War II, has just completed a second book in fall 2020. This title, *We Defended Freedom: Adventures of World War II Veterans*, is Book 4 in her WWII Legacies series. It includes the stories of 28 World War II veterans from various branches of the U.S. military. All but two of the veterans hail Indiana. The exceptions are a veteran from Virginia along with Woody Williams, the only living World War II Medal of Honor recipient from Kentucky.

Reusser's stories include an officer of an aircraft carrier, an Army soldier at D-Day, a sailor who was stationed at Cuba, and a pilot who flew in the South Pacific. Among the compilation are stories of two women who served in the Army as a WAC (Women's Army Corps) and in the WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service).

"It is exciting to present another group of World War II veteran stories to readers," said Reusser. "This collection of four books tells about the war, not from the generals' point of view, but from the viewpoint of the soldier, sailor and airman. They are how we won the war and why we have our freedoms today. My goal is to present stories in an exciting and factual way that will help readers appreciate what our veterans have done for us." Reusser has written books in other series: *Witnesses of War*; *World War II Insider*.

Since 2014, Reusser has published books of stories of America's oldest military veterans. "Documenting how past wars have helped to shape the world of today has been a rewarding challenge," she said. She releases new titles near Veteran's Day to commemorate and show appreciation for that group of citizens.

Reusser is the wife and mother of U.S. Air Force airmen. "I firmly believe we need to teach people about patriotism because if we don't reinforce its importance, we could be in a position to lose it," she said. "My method of presenting it is through sharing veterans' stories. My books are part of a continued effort to preserve our national military heritage."



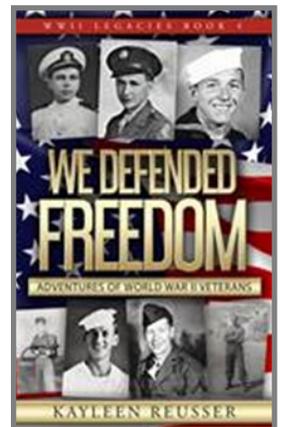
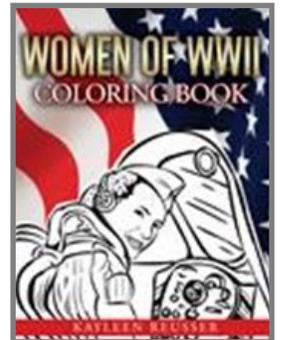
Reusser recently completed a book of Prisoner of War stories entitled *Captured! Stories of American WWII Prisoners of War (Prisoner of War series)*. [JUST RELEASED 11/20]

She has also finished a coloring book featuring women from World War II whom she has interviewed. "The coloring book could encourage people of all ages to become familiar with women who volunteered to serve in the military when much of society disapproved," she said. "I admire them for their pluck."

Reusser has presented many talks about her interviews with 260 World War II veterans. She is booking virtual events for 2021. To learn more about these presentations, and/or to schedule Reusser for a speaking event, visit her website

at www.KayleenReusser.com.

[RELEASED FALL 2020]



All of these books are available on Amazon (<https://amzn.to/2JBjEPV>) or signed copies through Reusser.

Thanks for your support. (Kayleen was our October speaker)