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**LANDING CRAFT INFANTRY 449: AUBURN'S LT. BYRON YARBROUGH
AND THE BATTLE FOR IWO JIMA
PRESENTED BY DENNIS BLOCKER ON MARCH 31**

Montgomery, AL (3/23/16) – On Thursday, March 31 at noon, historian Dennis Blocker will present ***Landing Craft Infantry 449: Auburn's Lt. Byron Yarbrough and the Battle for Iwo Jima***, at the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

Blocker is the Pacific War Historian for the National Landing Craft Infantry Association and is affiliated with the National Museum of the Pacific War. He spent 14 years researching the crew of Landing Craft Infantry 449, collecting hundreds of interviews with sailors who survived the battle and families of the men killed in the fight.

Blocker's extensive research was recently turned into *the Heart of Hell* (2016) by Pulitzer Prize-winning investigative journalist Mitch Weiss. *The Heart of Hell* is the untold story of the crew of Landing Craft Infantry 449.

One crew member featured in the book is Byron Chew Yarbrough, the son of Dr. Cecil and Bertha Mae Yarbrough. Byron was born on February 4, 1920 and grew up in Auburn. He graduated from Alabama Polytechnic Institute (now Auburn University) and enlisted in the Navy, commissioned Lieutenant Junior Grade. He was stationed in the Pacific on LCI 449, and was one of the many killed in battle on February 17, 1945.

The presentation is FREE! The public is invited to bring a brown bag lunch, complimentary beverages will be provided. Copies of *The Heart of Hell* will be available for purchase.

The Alabama Department of Archives and History is located in downtown Montgomery, directly across the street from the State Capitol. It is the state's government records repository, special collections library and research facility, and is home to the Museum of Alabama, the state history museum. The Archives and Museum are open Monday through Saturday, 8:30 to 4:30. To learn more, visit www.archives.alabama.gov or call (334) 242-4364.

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