



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

VOL. 24 No. 10

240th MEETING

Editor: John E. Kovach
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Date: June 17th, 2010 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting SEPT. 16th, 2010

Time: Social Half-Hour: 11:00 AM - 11:30 AM > MEETING START TIME 11:30 AM - Speaker Immediately Following Lunch

Contributor(s) To This Newsletter

* Colin S. Monteith III
* Colonel Brent Bracewell
* Fletcher Thompson/Randolph Goulding
* Marilyn Pahr/John Davis/Bill Owens
* Guyton McCall /Jay Lenny/Bob Rivers

Elected Officers 2009-2010

Commander – Fletcher Thompson
Tel: 770-952-4812

Deputy Cmdr.- Randolph Goulding
Tel: 770-436-4254

Adjutant: John Kovach
Tel: 770-928-4579

Finance Officer: Jay Lenny
Tel: 770-638-7824

Dep. Finance Ofc: N. Roy Lunsford
Sgt.-at-Arms – Bob Rivers (Capt.)
Tel: 770-592-5611

Sgt.-at-Arms – Otto O’Neal
Sgt.-at-Arms – Bill Shepherd
Chaplain – Guyton McCall
Tel: 404-237-1011

Asst. Chaplain – B.G. Harold A. Dye
Asst. Chaplain – Bill Sperry

**** PETITE AU BERGE RESTAURANT**

2935 N. Druid Hills Road, Web Site: www.petiteauberge.com
Atlanta, Georgia 30329 (Restaurant Phone: 404-634-6268)

Price: \$ 15.00 Per Plate ** NO RESERVATION REQUIRED **

Speaker: Colin S. Monteith III

Subject: 2nd Marine Division- Operation Iceberg- Battle of Okinawa

Mission Statement

We, who by our own actions, and by our heritage, know that liberty has not, is not, nor ever will be free, do in association with our friends and comrades, who believe as we do, pledge that we will meet at the call of our Commander no less than ten times a year:

- * To hear of the war experiences of our members and invited guests**
- * To encourage and demonstrate pride in our country and its armed forces**
- * To pass on to posterity our knowledge of World War II, and of the price - human and material - that was paid by our nation for the preservation of liberty in the United States and the world**

Speaker for June 17th, 2010–Colin S. Monteith III - (To Be Introduced By Deputy Commander Goulding)

Colin enlisted in the U.S.M.C. on April 3rd, 1944. He joined the 2nd Marine Division on Saipan on November 10th, 1944. Colin participated in the Battle of Okinawa, Ryukyu Island, April 1st through April 14th, and June 3rd through June 21st, 1945. Colin was part of the amphibious forces landing on the Island of Iheya Shima (north of Okinawa), those forces being the closest combat troops to Japan at that time.

As many of you know, The Battle of Okinawa, codenamed *Operation Iceberg*, was fought on the Ryukyu Islands of Okinawa and was the largest amphibious assault in the war in the Pacific. The battle lasted 82 days and resulted in one of the highest number of casualties of any WW II engagement, with the Japanese losing over 100,000 troops and the Allies suffering over 50,000 casualties. Among the casualties on Okinawa was *U.S. Army General Simon Bolivar Buckner*, one of the highest - ranking Generals killed in WW II (another was *General Lesley McNair* who was killed during *Operation Cobra* at the Battle of the Bulge – McNair had been sent to the ETO to replace *General Patton* and was observing the battle when he was killed by USAAF bombs dropped forward of their target; a third high-ranking officer killed was Lt. *General Frank Maxwell Andrews* who was killed in a airplane accident during a inspection tour of Iceland in 1943; another high-ranking officer killed on Okinawa was *Brigadier General Claudius M. Easley*, who was killed by machine gun fire.)

Following Okinawa, Monteith participated in the occupation of Japan on September 23rd, 1945 landing on Nagasaki. He left Japan on June 24th, 1946 and was discharged from the Marine Corps as a corporal on August 6th, 1946. Monteith will be bringing some memorabilia with him and will display these on tables. Colin’s wife Ivy will be sitting with him and some of Colins family will also attend.

Although unable to attend due to a 4th trip to Normandy with Carl Beck, our Historian, Marilyn Pahr crafted a pictorial presentation to go along with his talk and he will have some photos rarely seen for us all to view.

Please welcome Colin Monteith as our June 17th, 2010 speaker. (240th Meeting)

Review of May 20th, 2010 Speaker –Colonel Brent Bracewell (Introduced by Deputy Commander Goulding)

The Round Table was so fortunate in May to have Colonel Brent Bracewell, an active duty Tactical Command officer in charge of a Blackhawk Helicopter wing based at Dobbins NAS, speak to us at our May 20th meeting. Colonel Bracewell accepted a last-minute invitation by the Round Table to speak and be a stand-in for our scheduled speaker, Bernie Dvorscak, who could not keep his engagement due to a medical issue. Dvorscak has agreed to give his presentation on the Battle of Midway at a future meeting.

CONTINUED ON BACK

Colonel Bracewell serves in the Georgia Army National Guard and is in Command of the 78th Aviation Troop Command. He has served in the military for 20 years. Bracewell is a UH-60L Blackhawk Helicopter Pilot and a combat veteran of Desert

Storm, Bosnia and of Operation Iraqi Freedom II in which he Commanded a Task Force. At present his Command oversees the entire Georgia Army National Guard's aviation assets which includes 34 Helicopters, 3 Airplanes and over 700 soldiers.

The Colonel drew some interesting comparisons between soldiering today and what conditions the soldiers who fought in WW II faced. Among them was: instant communications in war zones today via cell phones, other hand-held devices and email vs. letters home during WW II and getting a letter delivered to a loved one in 2-3 weeks; another comparison related to low-level aerial combat. Today's aviators face heat-seeking missiles and have to be aware of vehicles on the ground that can conceal a heat-seeker in the trunk of a car— during WW II aerial fighting conditions required acquiring visual points of contact, identifying enemy aircraft by clock position. The Colonel also gave us details about a new *micro-climate cooling system* that is now being worn by the helicopter pilots and crew to keep their body temperature down in the desert heat. Aviators were not fortunate enough to have this in WW II, Korea or Vietnam.

Brent closed his talk to us by commenting that one thing common to soldiers being deployed today and in WW II is the sacrifices made when leaving family behind for long periods of time.

On behalf of the Round Table Colonel Bracewell, thank you for your 20 years of service, for commanding under both “imminent danger” and “combat conditions” and for a job well done.

I am pleased to announce that we have one (1) new member who has joined us since the May 20th, 2010 meeting:

WW II Veteran – Harry M. Baxter – Harry is a former member of the Atlanta WW II Round Table, originally joining us in 1997. Harry served in the U.S. Navy from August 1942 – January 1946. He was in Torpedo Squadron 8 from May 1943 to November 1944 (post George Gay.)

Please welcome Harry as our newest (and former) member of the Round Table at our June 17th, 2010 meeting.

>>> **Upcoming Speakers for - 2010-2011** Program chairman John Davis and program co-chairman Bill Owens have done a splendid job in lining up a wonderful list of speakers for the Atlanta WW II Round Table for our January through June 2010 meetings. The following speakers will be making a presentation to the Round Table in: **2010** –; **June – Colin S. Monteith (U.S. Marines.);** October - George Suhr (Navy); October – Arnold Whittaker (Army); November – Robert Honeycutt (Air Corp); December – Richard McMurry (Navy Historian); January 2011 – Douglas Huggins (Navy); February Banquet – Jim Starnes (Navy). More info to come on future speakers as they are booked. Please note that the speaker's engagements are subject to change. Thank you John M. Davis and William (Bill) Owens for your continuing efforts to seek-out and engage excellent speakers for our meetings and for a job exceedingly well done.

>>> **CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

>>> **(NEW) THE U.S. ARMY BIRTHDAY AT FORT McPHERSON'S HEDEKIN FIELD ON JUNE 15th, 2010 (Tuesday) - (Rain Date Wednesday June 16th - 9:15AM to 2:00PM or Later)**- This event will be at Fort McPherson and Fort Gillem on Tuesday, June 15th with a rain-date of Wednesday, June 16th. Events include the Fort Benning Silver Wings Parachute Demo, Army Ground Forces Rock Band, The 82nd Airborne Division Chorus, a K-9 Demo and more. Additional information at the Web Site www.mcphersonfmwr.com.

>> **SPECIAL MEMBER SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

>>> **COMMANDER'S REQUEST** – *Commander Thompson is requesting that all members should make our Chaplain and Asst. Chaplains aware of any member who is sick, stricken, or seriously ill. This can be done at the monthly meetings or by calling Chaplain Guyton McCall at 404-237-1011. Asst. Chaplain B.G. Harold A. Dye can be reached at 404-315-9253 and Asst. Chaplain William (Bill) Sperry at 404-770-452-1309*

>>> **(NEW) AWWIIRT Directory: Now hear this: I need service photos for those members who have not yet brought theirs in for the directory. I can take a picture of your photo at the June meeting. I also need you to fill out the narrative form, or write up a brief description of your service including: Branch of Service, Enlisted or drafted, DOB, hometown, Rank at discharge and any medals or awards received. I will be working on this diligently during the summer and will have updates and directories at the September meeting. Carry on! Marilyn can be contacted at 404-888-0767 or via email: mpahr@emory.edu**

>>> **(UPDATED) AWWIIRT Lending Library** – We continue to add titles and now have a library numbering over 200 titles. A selection will be available at the monthly meetings for members to “check out” and read or view at their leisure. Contact Marilyn Pahr if you wish to donate books, videos or DVDs related to WWII. (see above for contact info)

NOTICE TO ALL ATLANTA WW II ROUND TABLE MEMBERS – PLEASE REMEMBER THERE WILL BE NO SCHEDULED MEETINGS IN JULY OR AUGUST. OUR NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON SEPTEMBER 16th, 2010

Monthly Quotation:

“War involves in its progress such a train of unforeseen and unsuspected circumstances that no human wisdom can calculate the end. It has but one thing certain, and that is to increase taxes.”

Thomas Paine – 1737-1809 Called the Father of the American Revolution Author Common Sense (1776) & The Age of Reason (1793-94)