



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE PRESERVING HISTORY

INTERNET: <http://www.atlantawwiiroundtable.org>

VOL. 25 No. 2

242nd MEETING

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- * Arnold G. Whittaker
- * George F. Suhr
- * Fletcher Thompson/Randolph Goulding
- * Marilyn Pahr/John Davis/Bill Owens
- * Guyton McCall /Jay Lenny/Bob Rivers

Elected Officers 2009-2010

Commander – Fletcher Thompson
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Sgt.-at-Arms – Bill Shepherd

Sgt.-at-Arms – Guy Condra
Chaplain – Bill Sperry (Lead)
Tel: 770-452-1309

Asst. Chaplain – B.G. Harold A. Dye

Asst. Chaplains – Guyton McCall / H.T. Maclin

Date: OCTOBER 21st, 2010 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting NOV. 18th, 2010

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

** 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: Arnold G. Whittaker

Subject: “The Genesis of WW II Veterans”

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 October 21st, 2010 – Arnold G. Whittaker - (To Be Introduced By Commander Thompson)

Our October 21st speaker, Arnold G. Whittaker, was born in 1925 in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. He joined the U.S. Army in March of 1944 and went through basic training at Camp Fannin, TX. After assignment to the 5th Infantry Division, 10th Infantry Regiment, Company K, he arrived in Metz, France in early November that year. You will recall that the 5th Infantry Division was part of Patton’s Third Army. The 5th Infantry earned its reputation as the *Red Devils* after being activated in December, 1917 and being deployed to France in the Spring of 1918. During action on the Meuse leading up to the Armistice in November 1918, the Division earned two Medals of Honor and 87 Distinguished Service Crosses. Reactivated again in 1939, they redeployed to Britain to prepare for the Normandy landing at Utah beach in the area of St. Mere Eglise on D+3. They transferred to Patton’s 3rd Army in the summer of 1944 participating in the sweep across France. The 5th was to receive its heaviest losses taking Metz in November and in their counterattacks that followed the German’s Ardennes offensive.

Arnold is the recipient of three Battle Stars, the Combat Infantry Badge, a Bronze Star and Silver Star. He was discharged as a Technical Sergeant. He was interviewed by The History Channel for the program *Patton 360°*, a weekly television series which ran from April 10th to June 26th, 2009.

Please welcome Arnold Whittaker as our October 21st, 2010 speaker. (242nd Meeting)

Review of September 16th, 2010 Speaker –George F. Suhr (Introduced by Deputy Commander Goulding)

Our September speaker, George Suhr, gave a wonderful and sometimes emotional presentation to us about the sinking of the *USS Leopoldville* on Christmas Eve 1944.

George was a Junior R.O.T.C. Cadet at Clemson in 1943 when he joined the Enlisted Reserve Corps (ERC). The ERC members were all called to active duty shortly thereafter and George went through basic training at Camp Croft and then to Officer Candidate School at Ft. Benning, GA. He graduated and was assigned to the 66th Infantry Division which was deployed to England, then Europe in December 1944. The 66th left England on the *Leopoldville*, an 11,500 ton Belgian passenger & cargo ship converted to a troop transport ship. The *Leopoldville* along with another troop transport ship, the *Fairfield*, set sail accompanied by 4 British Destroyers.

The initial torpedo attack by the German Submarine U-486 killed about 300 men. Although someone on the ship announced that the ship would not sink, the crew abandoned ship shortly thereafter. The HMS *Brilliant*, one of the accompanying Destroyers was able to maneuver close enough to the *Leopoldville* for some of the men to

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attempt to jump onto her deck. Many did not make it and fell between the ships. These men were crushed when the rough sea turbulence brought the ships together repeatedly. George was one of the lucky ones to jump just at the right time, a total of 783 troops were lost that night. Suhr was able to go on and fight in Europe until the end of the war.

Thank you George for your jumping skills, for your service during WW II, and for a job well done.

I am pleased to announce that we have seven (7) new members who have joined us since the September 16th, 2010 meeting:
WW II Veteran – Emory M. Brooks – Emory served in the 94th Infantry Division of the U.S. Army for 2 ½ years, 18 months of that service in Europe.

WW II Veteran – Seymour (Sy) Rosen – Seymour served in the U.S. Army as a Rifleman and Combat Infantry in the 7th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division in France, Germany and Austria.

WW II Veteran – Jack I. Van Keuren – Jack was with the 36 Tank Battalion, 8th Armour Division from 1943-1946 in France – Holland, Germany and Austria. He also served during the Korean War in the 7th Infantry Division, 31st Regiment – 54th Engr. Bn. He retired in 1966 as a Sergeant Major.

WW II Veteran – George F. Suhr – George served in the 264th Regiment, 66th Infantry Division in the ETO. George was our September speaker and told us about the sinking of the *S.S. Leopoldville*.

WW II Veteran – Herman H. Scott – Herman served in the Merchant Marines during WW II. He served aboard Cargo and Liberty Ships as well as on large Merchant Liners.

Veteran James (Jim) Trapp – James served in Vietnam in the Air Force. He participated in *Operation Thunder* in F-105 Thunderchiefs.

Veteran Edward (Ed) W. Poole – Ed served in the U.S. Navy Submarine Service as a Diver. He engaged in two war patrols in Vietnam – Cold War Ops and served in three Submarines as an Electrician Mate and Diver. He completed his Naval career as a Instructor.

Please welcome Emory, Sy, Jack, George, Jim, Ed and Herman as our newest members of the Round Table at our October 21st, 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 –;** **October – Arnold Whittaker (Army);** November – Harold D. Andrews, Jr. (Air Corp); December – Richard McMurry (Navy Historian); January 2011 – Douglas Huggins (Navy); February Banquet – Jim Starnes (Navy); March – Victor Williams 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.

>> **CALANDAR OF EVENTS**

>>> **(NEW) OCTOBER 10th, 2010 (Saturday) 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM - The Sixth Annual Taste of Acworth** takes place in historic downtown Acworth on Saturday, October 16th 2010 from 10am to 6pm. The event benefits local schools and charities and features 150 area [restaurants](#) and businesses. In addition to the great food, there will be two stages providing live entertainment throughout the day including the fun fashion show at noon and dog show at 3pm. The event also includes a kid zone featuring inflatables, a quad bungee, and challenging games. **Admission:** Free, food samples range from \$1 to \$3. **Location:** Historic District on Main Street-Downtown Acworth. **Parking:** Parking will be available throughout downtown with shuttles running from McCall Primary School, Acworth Methodist Church, and Acworth First Baptist Church. For more information, please call (770) 423-1330. Sergeant-at-Arms Guy Condra, the owner of the Acworth Bookstore, reports that there will also be six (6) book signings at the event by various historical and non-historical authors.

>> **SPECIAL MEMBER SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

>>> **(NEW) REQUESTS BY INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS AT ROUND TABLE MEETINGS** – In an effort to not interfere with our scheduled speaker's allotted time and also to allow more time during our lunch for table-conversation, the Atlanta WW II Round Table Executive Board has approved the following policy: ***Requests by individuals to make announcements during the Atlanta WW II Round Table meetings must first be cleared through the Commander prior to the date of the meeting.*** The number of announcements will be limited at each meeting and will also be based on priority of interest to the Round Table. Commander Thompson may be contacted at 770-952-4812 or via email at fandkt@yahoo.com

>>> **COMANDER'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 Bill Sperry at 770-452-1309. Asst. Chaplain B.G. Harold A. Dye can be reached at 404-315-9253; Asst. Chaplain Guyton McCall at 404-237-1011 and Asst. Chaplain H.T. Maclin at 404-377-3178*

>>> **(NEW) AWWIIRT Directory:** It's picture time! We have so many new members and we'd like to get to know you. Please be sure to have picture taken at upcoming meetings. All members receive copies of the Membership Directory so if you haven't received yours, see me at the meeting. 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)

Monthly Quotation:

No man's life, liberty or fortune is safe while our legislature is in session"

Benjamin Franklin

(1706-1790) United States Founding Father