



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 25 No. 1

241st MEETING

Editor: John E. Kovach
Tel: (770) 928-4579

Contributor(s) To This
Newsletter

* George F. Suhr
* Colin S. Monteith III
* 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 – 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: Sept 16th, 2010 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting OCT. 21st, 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: George F. Suhr

Subject: Sinking of the U.S.S. Leopoldville

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 Sept. 16th, 2010 – George F. Suhr - (To Be Introduced By Deputy Commander Goulding)

Our September speaker, George Suhr, was a Junior R.O.T.C. Cadet at Clemson in 1943 when he joined the Enlisted Reserve Corps (ERC.) The intention of the ERC was to let engineering students complete their Senior year in the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) and receive their appointments as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Army. However in a matter of weeks the ERC members were all called to active duty.

George went through basic training at Camp Croft, then went to Officer Candidate School (OCS) at Ft. Benning, Georgia, graduated, and was assigned to the 66th Infantry Division at Camp Rucker, Alabama. His Division was deployed to England, then Europe in December 1944. On Christmas Eve 1944 George was a Second Lieutenant on-board the S.S. *Leopoldville*, an 11,500 ton Belgian passenger & cargo ship converted to a troop transport ship in WW II and carrying about 2000 of his Infantry Division. On this crossing, she was transporting reinforcements from the 262nd and 264th Regiments of the 66th Infantry Division towards the Battle of The Bulge.

George will fill in the details about the torpedo attack by a German Sub (U-486) which consequently sunk the *Leopoldville*. Up to that time, the *Leopoldville* had made 24 successful cross-channel crossings, transporting more than 120,000 troops. The conditions were extremely bad that night off the coast of France, the Sea very high and rough, and many men lost their lives even though a rescue attempt was made by a British ship. George was one of the lucky ones able to jump from the *Leopoldville* onto the deck of the British ship and was able to fight in Europe until the end of the war. He was discharged from active duty in May 1946.

George completed his degree in Chemical Engineering at Clemson. He retired from Reichhold Chemicals in 1987 and was retained as a consultant until 2002.

Please welcome George Suhr as our September 16th, 2010 speaker. (241st Meeting)

Review of June 17th, 2010 Speaker – Colin S. Monteith III (Introduced by Deputy Commander Goulding)

In June, Colin Monteith III told us about the Battle of Okinawa and his participation of the occupation of Japan in September 1945. He was part of the 2nd Marine Division's amphibious forces that landed on the Island of Iheya Shima (north of Okinawa), the Marines going in on April 1st through April 14th and again landing additional forces from June 3rd through June 21st, 1945. The Battle of Okinawa 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. Two high-ranking Generals lost their lives on Okinawa along with their troops;

CONTINUED ON BACK

General Simon Bolivar Buckner was killed by enemy artillery fire; Brigadier General Claudius Easley was killed by machine gun fire.

Following Okinawa, Monteith participated in the occupation of Japan, landing on Nagasaki on September 23rd, 1945. The Marines went in with full combat gear since they weren't sure if the Japanese would be hostile. The Atomic bomb nicknamed *Fat Man* had been dropped on Nagasaki the previous month, on August 9th by the *B-29 Superfortress Bockscar* piloted that day by Major Charles W. Sweeney. As it turned out the Japanese people gave the Marines no problem whatsoever, they obeyed the Emperor's command of complete surrender.

Thank you for your service in the U.S.M.C. on Okinawa and in Japan Colin, and for a job well done.

I am pleased to announce that we have four (4) new members who have joined us since the June 17th, 2010 meeting:

WW II Veteran – James O. Ingle – James served in the U.S. Army Signal Corp, Tenth Army HQ in the Pacific Theater. He completed his training at the High-Speed Radio School at Camp Crowder, MO and was assigned to the Tenth Army at Okinawa and Siam, and during the occupation of Japan. He re-upped in 1945 and spent from 1947-1950 in the Army Reserves.

WW II Veteran – John S. Sherman – John served in the U.S. Army in the invasions of North Africa and Italy. He is married to our PR Officer, Jill Sherman (formerly Jill Berry.)

WW II Veteran – Edward (Ted) Shirley – Ted served in the U.S. Navy in the Pacific theater. He was a apprentice seaman, midshipman and line officer (deck) and was transferred to the Civil Engineer Corps Construction Battalions (Seabees) for the invasion of Japan.

New Member - Amy Carpenter Amy is the daughter of Harry Baxter, a prior member who rejoined us in June, 2010. She is a volunteer to many organizations; you may recall her participation at the Good Neighbor Day event at PDK this past spring.

Please welcome James, John, Ted and Amy as our newest members of the Round Table at our Sept. 16th, 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** –; **September-George Suhr (Army)**; October – Arnold Whittaker (Army); November – Robert Honeycutt (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) SEPTEMBER 26th, 2010 (Sunday) 2:00 – 4:00 PM** - A special book signing will be held on September 26th (Sunday) at the Acworth Bookstore, 4857 N. Main St., in Acworth, Georgia 30101. John Anderson Morow will be reciting portions of the book, *The Confederate Whitworth Sharpshooters* and sign it if you purchase a copy. Morrow himself is a veteran of the 101st Airborne and Special Forces. He will be discussing these elite Confederate soldiers who were the only ones permitted to carry the Whitworth Rifle, called the deadliest rifle of the Civil War. The Acworth Bookstore is owned by our newest Sergeant-at-Arms, Guy Condra. There is a gourmet coffee & gift shop in the store. The store phone is 678-403-1355, you can log-on to their Web Site at www.acworthbookstore.net. If you haven't met Guy yet, say hello to him at the September meeting.

>> **SPECIAL MEMBER SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

>>> **(NEW) OSCAR CALDERON** – **Great News:** Oscar Calderon (Oscar), our former Head-Waiter at the Petite, will be returning to work at the Restaurant. He will handle special functions and events such as the Atlanta WW II Round Table's regular meetings, our February Banquet and other functions the restaurant needs him for. ***PLEASE WELCOME BACK OSCAR*** at our September 16th meeting.

>>> **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: 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 Sept.2010 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)

Monthly Quotation:

"Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world, but the Marines don't have that problem."

Ronald Reagan

40th President of the U.S. (1911–2004)