



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 25 No. 8

248th MEETING

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Contributor(s) To This Newsletter

- * Marvin Nash Worthy
- * Doug Huggins
- * Fletcher Thompson/Randolph Goulding
- * Marilyn Pahr/John Davis/Guy Condra
- * Jay Lenny/Bob Rivers

Elected Officers 2010-2011

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Chaplain – Bill Sperry (Lead)
Tel: 770-452-1309

Asst. Chaplain – B.G. Harold A. Dye

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

Date: APRIL 21st, 2011 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting MAY 19th

Time: Social Half-Hour: 11:00 AM - 11:30 > MEETING START TIME 11:30 - 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: Marvin Nash Worthy

Subject: “Operation Keelhaul Revisited”

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 APRIL 21st, 2011–Marvin Worthy (To Be Introduced By Deputy Commander Goulding)

Marvin was born in Detroit, MI of Georgia parentage. He moved back to Georgia to attend North Georgia College and was inducted into the Army in 1943. After basic he was assigned to the Corp of Engineers and was later elevated to the water supply with the rating of Corporal.

He landed in France at LeHarve and was moved to the front through Southern France, crossed the Rhine and crossed the Danube River into Germany. His company met up with the Russians in Austria as the war ended, he was subsequently hospitalized for non-combat wounds and was exposed to Asbestos. He is now 100% disabled from home.

Marvin will elucidate on *Operation Keelhaul*, which was carried out in Northern Italy, Germany, Dachau, Austria, Canada, and the United States, by American and British forces to repatriate Soviet Armed Forces POW's of the Nazis to the Soviet Union between August 1946 and May 1947. The term *Keelhaul* was later applied to other Allied acts of often forced repatriation of former residents of the USSR after the ending of WW II that sealed the fate of millions of post-war refugees fleeing Eastern Europe.

It is not known how many Cossacks and Russians were forcibly repatriated, but from research and books written by Peter Juxley-Blythe, Julius Epstein and others, millions of Russian men, women and children seeking sanctuary were forced back against their will to face Joseph Stalin's firing squads and bayonets or serve hard labor in the death camps of Siberia. It should be noted that the official record of this appeasement policy, "*Operation Keelhaul*" is still classified as top-secret by Washington.

Please welcome Marvin Nash Worthy as our APRIL 21st, 2011 speaker. (**248th Meeting**)

Review of MARCH 17th, 2011 Speaker –Doug Huggins (Introduced by Deputy Commander Goulding)

Doug Huggins delighted Round Table members in March by giving us the history, and then some, of the *U.S.S. St. Louis* (CL-49). The *St. Louis* was laid down on 10 December 1936, launched on 15 April 1938 and commissioned in May 1939 at which time Captain Charles H. Morrision assumed command. Shakedown was completed on 6 October after which she began Neutrality Patrol Operations. She participated in fleet maneuvers and conducted patrols during the winter of 1940-1941, was overhauled, then steamed for Pearl Harbor on 20 June and resumed operations.

Doug's first assignment after graduating Navy Boot Camp in San Diego was onboard the *St. Louis* to participate in training exercises in the Hawaiian waters. She would be the lead ship in her class of Light Cruisers and the 5th ship in the U.S. Navy named after the city of St. Louis. She sailed out to do Patrol Exercises in the Wake Island – Midway Atoll – Guam vicinity with her battle force and returned to Pearl in September 1941.

Doug had vivid memories of the attack on the morning of December 7th, 1941. The *St. Louis* was moored to the pier of the Southeast Lock at the time. The ship came to general quarters within a few minutes of the start of the attack and started firing her anti-aircraft guns, shooting down three enemy aircraft before moving away from the pier

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and heading for the South Channel and the open sea to pursue and search for the Japanese strike force. For its success at Pearl Harbor, the *St. Louis* was given the nickname, 'The Lucky Lou.'. After the attack, Doug sadly found out that the high school buddy he had enlisted and graduated from Navy Boot Camp with was killed onboard the U.S.S. Arizona that day, one of the first to be killed in the attack.

Doug resumed his duty as Electricians Mate onboard the *St. Louis* as a escort ship to Marine troop and plane ships, doing shore bombardment and engaging the enemy wherever they encountered them. She was active throughout the war, fighting in the *Battle of Kula Bay* and the *Battle of Kolombangara*. The *St. Louis*'s war wounds included bombing attacks by Japanese Dive Bombers, Torpedo Bombers, and *Kamikazes*. Although heavily damaged during these attacks, with many crew killed and wounded, she survived living up to her nickname.

Doug was proud to have served aboard her, and after his service on the *St. Louis* served on two Minesweepers and a PC Boat, the USS PC478 in the South Pacific. Thank you Doug for your service in the U.S. Navy and for a job well done.

I am pleased to announce that we have one (1) new member who has joined us since the March 17th, 2011 meeting: USMC Veteran Tom Hawkinson – Tom served with the U.S. Marine Corps and is interested in the Battle of Britain. ***Please welcome Tom as our newest member of the Round Table at our April 21st, 2011 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: **April – Marvin N. Worthy (U.S. Army);** May – Dr. Susan Young (Redstone Arsenal); June – Visvaldis (Vis) Kimenis (Special). 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 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) April 30th – May 1st, 2011 (Saturday and Sunday) 9AM – 4PM – (RAIN OR SHINE) 8th Annual Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Dixie Wing WW II Heritage Days – Boots, Wheels, Wings & Swing – This is a annual program that promotes education and patriotism. The CAF Dixie Wing is a non-profit education organization that restores WW II aircraft and teaches WW II history. Suggested donations for the WW II Heritage Days event is \$5, children 5 and under are admitted free. Tickets for the "Keep 'em Flying" WW II-theme hangar dance featuring the Peachtree Jazz Edition are \$45 before April 25th, \$60 at the door. For additional information on this event you can call 678-364-1110 or access their Web Site at www.wwiidays.org

(NEW) May 29th, 2011 (Sunday) 12PM – 5PM – Veterans Remembrance Day – at the Atlanta History Center. Many of the Round Table members have participated in this event over the years. Round Table members are again being asked to bring out their memorabilia and sign-up to exhibit. John Davis will have sign-up sheets at the April meeting. You can also call John at 770-493-4745 to sign up; John's email address is davis51450@bellsouth.net

>>> **SPECIAL MEMBER SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

>>> **REQUESTS BY INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS AT ROUND TABLE MEETINGS** – In a 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

>>> **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 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:** Is your Membership Directory up-to-date? I still have two sets of update packets – one set includes the List of Commanders and Mack Abbott's profile; the other has the "Kilroy was Here" and Marilyn Pahr entry. Check to see if you have these in your copy, if not, please pick one up at the April meeting. Membership Directories will be available for paid members who have not received theirs. 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 Quotations:

"When we get to Berlin, I am personally going to shoot that paper hanging son-of-a-bitch Hitler. Just like I'd shoot a snake"!

General Patton's Famous "Blood and Guts" Speech to His Troops June 5th, 1944

A follow-up response to Patton's comments was made by Saul K. Padover, part of a article in Harper's Magazine, 1946 "The Paper-Slaves"

These Germans were so police-harried and document-conscious that they continued to be uneasy unless we looked at their personal papers. They forced their papers upon us to prove that everything was in order.

I have never seen a people so paper crazy. They hugged to their bosoms birth certificates, military records, military passes, travel passes, discharge papers, baptism records, Aryan records, marriage records, pension records, pay records, work records, health records; in short, records to prove that they were alive and that perhaps they had a right to be alive.

They also carried letters, snapshots, and family mementos. It was amusing to observe this addiction to paper, especially paper signed and stamped officially, until one realized that this was the behavior of slaves 'who worshiped bureaucrats. In the German *Polizeistaat* paper was sacred, paper spelled security.

It was not until later, when I was in Buchenwald and saw heaps of human bones-and-ashes in one corner of the camp and carefully preserved records of the victims in another corner, that I understood a strange truth about the Germans that they had no compunction about burning human beings but that they would not burn paper records.

Saul K. Padover, "The Paper Slaves" Harper's Magazine 1946