



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 25 No. 6

246th MEETING

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Newsletter

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- * William (Bill) S. Burton
- * Fletcher Thompson/Randolph Goulding
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Elected Officers 2010-2011

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Sgt.-at-Arms – Bill Shepherd
Sgt.-at-Arms – Lee Weinstein
Chaplain – Bill Sperry (Lead)
Tel: 770-452-1309

Asst. Chaplain – B.G. Harold A. Dye

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

Date: FEBRUARY 19th, 2011 (SATURDAY) >> Next Meeting MARCH..17th

Time: Social Hour: 11:00 AM - 12:00 NOON > MEETING START
TIME 12:00 NOON - 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: \$ 26.00 Per Plate ** RESERVATION REQUIRED **

Speaker: James (Jim) L. Starnes

Subject: “September 2nd, 1945 Aboard *The U.S.S. Missouri*
(*The Mighty Mo*)-An Eyewitness To History”

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 FEBRUARY 19th, 2011–James (Jim) L. Starnes (To Be Introduced By Deputy Commander Goulding)

Jim Starnes has lived in Atlanta since his family moved here when he was a youngster. In 1940 he enrolled in the V-7 Program at Emory University and after completion he was commissioned an Ensign and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. His first assignment was aboard the light cruiser *U.S.S. Boise* at Pearl Harbor. The *Boise* participated in the *Battle of Cape Esperance* near the Solomon Islands Oct. 11-12; the ship was heavily damaged and nearly 300 of its crew killed or injured.

After assignment to the Navigation School in Newport, Conn. In June 1944, he was assigned to the *U.S.S. Missouri* as Lt. Commander. The *Missouri* participated in the Iwo Jima and Okinawa invasions and was the Flag Ship for Admiral Halsey.

As Navigator of the *Missouri*, Jim’s post as Officer of the Deck was his duty during general quarters and special occasions. He was responsible for keeping the logs of the battleship. Although the official log book for the *Missouri* is in the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, Jim has a copy and knows it by heart.

On September 2nd, 1945, the day of the surrender, Jim recalled “It was a mild and sunny day, at 8:56 the Japanese representatives came aboard. They came up the gangway because they had been brought out on a destroyer, which lay off our starboard beam. We sent the Admiral’s barge over to pick them up. The whole ceremony took only 23 minutes. After having been in the service for five years and after having witnessed a lot of combat both in the Pacific and the European theaters, after having seen a lot of bloodshed and a lot of people killed and wounded, to have been able to end up at that point in time, with it all coming to a close, I could never have dreamed it being that wonderful. As the Japanese were leaving the ship, about 1500 aircraft flew overhead, about 1300 of them from our carriers and about 200 B-29’s. The sky was darkened by our aircraft. It was a very dramatic conclusion, and this was the power that brought the war to its conclusion.”

Please welcome Jim Starnes as our FEBRUARY 19th, 2011 speaker. (246th Meeting)

Review of JANUARY 20th, 2011 Speaker –William S. Burton (Introduced by Deputy Commander Goulding)

Our January 20th speaker, Bill Burton, gave us a wonderful presentation of his service in World War II and the foundations, courage and sacrifices made by a special branch of the Navy. These sailors were known as the *U.S.N. Armed Guard*, their main purpose being to maintain the guns and ammunition furnished by the U.S. Navy for the protection of the Merchant ships and other vessels and to protect the ship, ship’s crew and cargo from the enemy. The *U.S.N. Armed Guard* served on more than 6236 ships during WW II. Other *U.S.N. Armed Guard* included officers in charge of the crew, radiomen and signalmen.

Bill dropped out of High School to enter the Navy; he enlisted needing his mother’s signature, and received his orders to report to Norfolk, VA for 4 weeks of training, mostly to learn how to handle weapons. He was then sent to Radio School at Auburn University (Known then as API .) He asked to be dropped from Radio School after a few weeks, and the Captain agreed and sent him to New Orleans, to one of the *Navy Armed Guard* bases. After more training in Gulfport, MS. he was sent to Brooklyn, NY,

another Navy Armed Guard Center.

CONTINUED ON BACK

Burton served the U.S.N. Armed Guard well, participating in a *Murmansk Russia Ammunition Run*; for the D-Day landings he made a total of nine runs to the beaches at Normandy carrying infantry from England, five runs to *Omaha Beach* and four to *Utah*. Later; during the *Antwerp Bomb Blitz of 1944*, he survived over 500 German V-2 *Rocket* attacks. His final orders took him to the Philippines where he took part in the *Battle of Leyte Gulf*.

Thank you Bill for your service with the U.S.N. Armed Guard, your presentation to us and for a job well done.

I am pleased to announce that we have two (2) new members who have joined us since the January 20th, 2011 meeting:

USNR Veteran Morgan M. Robertson – Morgan served on the U.S.S. *Robert H. McCard* (DD-822) from 1970-1971 and as JAGC Officer from 1981-1999.

Greg McClelland – Greg is dedicated to preserving the history of the German Resistance in the Third Reich. He has a information Website at <http://www.mindspring.com/~july20/>

Please welcome Morgan and Greg as our newest members of the Round Table at our February 19th, 2011 Banquet. Please note that there will be NO new member inductions at the February Banquet. These members will be inducted into the Round Table at the March 17th 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: **February Banquet – Jim Starnes (U.S.S. Missouri - Navy)**; March – Walter Victor (Army); May – Dr. Susan Young (Redstone Arsenal). 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**

>>> **(FINAL) - FEBRUARY BANQUET- February 19th, 2011 (Saturday)** – Round Table members are encouraged to get their reservations in prior to February 15th for the February 19th, 2011 Banquet. A Reservation form and a return envelope for Finance Officer Jay Lenny were enclosed with the December 2010 Newsletter. Please let Adjutant Kovach or Finance Officer Lenny know if you did **not** receive a **Reservation Form** and you will be mailed, emailed or faxed another one. John Kovach can be contacted at 770-928-4579 and Jay Lenny at 770-638-7824. Members **current with their dues** will have their meal paid for **courtesy** of the Round Table.

The **2011 Banquet** will again feature a very special speaker, a U.S. Naval Officer who was onboard the U.S.S. *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on the day the Japanese surrender on September 2nd, 1945. The Banquet will also feature entertainment during the social hour with vocals by our very own *Jill Sherman (formerly Jill Berry)* and live music provided by the *Stew McGhee Trio*. More info will follow in the February 2011 Newsletter.

The Banquet is the only scheduled Round Table meeting where **reservations are required. Reservations need to be booked no later than February 15th, 2011 (Tuesday)** so the Petite can do appropriate planning. **Please NOTE that Cancellations of Reservations will be accepted up until 72 hours (Wednesday) of the Banquet in order for a refund to be requested.**

Please remember that the Banquet is the only scheduled meeting of the Round Table for February 2011.

>>> **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 February 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:

As Navigator of the U.S.S. *Missouri*, the post of Officer of the Deck was his duty during general quarters or special occasions. But for this most special occasion, dress whites weren't required. "We got word from Macarthur that we fought them in our khakis and we'll take their surrender in our khakis."

James L. Starnes

Navigator/Officer of the Deck September 2nd, 1945

U.S.S. *Missouri*

"Government's view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it."

Ronald Reagan 40th President of the United States (1981–1989) and the 33rd Governor of California (1967–1975).