



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 26 No. 3

253rd MEETING

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

Contributor(s) To This
Newsletter

- * Greg McClelland
- * Sy Rosen
- * Randolph Goulding / Lee Weinstein
- * Marilyn Pahr/John Davis/Guy Condra
- * Jay Lenny/Bob Rivers

Elected Officers 2011-2012

Commander – Randolph Goulding
Tel: 770-436-4254

Deputy Cmdr.- Lee Weinstein
Tel: 404-843-0779

Adjutant: John Kovach
Tel: 770-928-4579

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

Dep. Finance Ofc: Guy Condra
Sgt.-at-Arms – Bob Rivers (Capt.)
Tel: 770-592-5611

Sgt.-at-Arms – Bill Shepherd
Sgt.-at-Arms – Joe Jordan

Sr. Chaplain – H.T. Maclin
Tel: 404-377-3178

Asst. Chaplain – B.G. Harold A. Dye

Asst. Chaplains – Guyton McCall / Bill Sperry

Date: NOVEMBER 17th, 2011 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting DEC. 15th

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: Greg McClelland

Subject: “OPERATION VALKYRIE”

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 NOVEMBER 17th, 2011– Greg McClelland (To Be Introduced By Deputy Commander Weinstein)

Greg McClelland is a historian and independent researcher on the history of the German Resistance in WW II. Greg was born in Atlanta and grew up in Marietta. He attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga (UTC). He began his research in April 1994 after reading a book by Herbert Malloy Mason, Jr. called *Hitler Must Die* and acknowledges that it has become his lifetime pursuit, Greg is 100% self-taught on the subject.

McClelland has done a lot to expand his knowledge-base since 1994; he has interviewed two German resistance survivors in Germany, Arnold Hencke and Jean Jülich, winner of the *Yad Vashem Award* in Israel for saving three Jewish lives in 1944; toured several historical sites from the Third Reich period including seven concentration camps between Germany, Poland and the Czech Republic; did a private tour of Colonel Staffenberg’s house in Wannsee-Berlin, Germany; met with Manfred Rommel, son of Erwin Rommel in July 1994; Was a special guest at the 50th anniversary of Colonel Staffenberg’s July 20th, 1944 attempt to kill Hitler on July 20th, 1994 at the Bendlerblock Building in Berlin (former OKH, German Army High Command) where Staffenberg staged his coup to overthrow the Nazi regime and end WW II; and has been published in the April-May issue of the German-American Journal of Chicago, article on German Resistance-Fighter Arnold Hencke.

Colonel Claus Schenk Graf von Stauffenberg, a German Army officer and catholic aristocrat, was the driving force behind the plot to assassinate Hitler from September 1943 to July 20th, 1944, called *Operation Valkyrie*, but the plot was primarily the brain child of General Friedrich Olbricht, chief of the General Army Office in the High Command and Stauffenberg The plan was based on orders issued by Hitler under the name *Operation Valkyrie*, which intended to use Reserve Soldiers to restore order in the event of an uprising. The concept was fairly straight forward. Kill Hitler, accuse the SS of attempting to seize power, initiate *Operation Valkyrie* and have the Nazi’s arrested in a counter-coup. The operation was brilliant and may have succeeded if Hitler had actually been killed by the bomb intended to set this chain of events in motion. Instead, a lack of initiative on several fronts combined with the failure of the plot to kill Hitler culminated in a miserable failure. This was the last of 22 attempts to eliminate Hitler, three of which were made by Staffenberg in July 1944 within 9 days. Five thousand people lost their lives as a direct result of that day and Hitler would use the July 20th plot as a excuse to destroy anyone he feared would oppose him. It is estimated that eventually, over 20,000 Germans were killed or sent to concentration camps in the purge. Greg will fill us in on the details of the aftermath of *Valkyrie*.

Those of us who love to preserve and learn from history were ecstatic when United Artists announced that they would make a full-length movie detailing the *Valkyrie* plot starring Tom Cruise as Staffenberg. The film was released in 2008 and details the complexity of the plot and the aftermath of the July 20th, 1944 failed attempt to kill Hitler.

Please welcome Greg McClelland as our NOVEMBER 17th, 2011 speaker (**253rd Meeting** .)

CONTINUED ON BACK

Review of OCTOBER 20th, 2011 Speaker – Sy Rosen (Introduced by Deputy Commander Weinstein)

Sy Rosen gave us great insight into the U.S. 7th Army, principally after General Alexander (Sandy) M. Patch was given command following the dismissal of General George Patton. Patton only had command of the 7th for a brief period, beginning in July 1943 and the launching of *Operation Husky*, the invasion of Sicily.

Patton was just coming out of fighting in North Africa and was anxious to continue fighting the Germans, so much so that he re-interpreted orders during *Husky* and broke his engagement to flank the British 8th Army commanded by Bernard Montgomery who was crowding Patton for recognition early in the war. Patton decided to carry out his own alternate plan, initially rejected by Eisenhower in favor of Montgomery's battle plan, which was ultimately successful when Patton liberated Palermo and then Messina, effectively liberating Sicily. However his reputation became smeared and he was almost sent home in disgrace after two separate 'slapping' incidents of American GI's where Patton interpreted battle fatigue and/or shell-shock as cowardice. Despite political pressure, Marshall and Eisenhower kept Patton in Europe planning to put him in command of the 3rd Army when the time came.

General Patch was given command of the 7th following Patton's dismissal. He was no newcomer to command, General Marshall selected him for command of the U.S. 7th Army because he was a experienced combat officer having served in WW 1 as a infantry officer and in the Pacific in October 1942. Like Patton, Patch was a front-line commander and personally led troops on several dangerous offensives. He was credited for driving the Japanese from Guadalcanal by February 1943.

Patch proceeded to enhance the 7th Army's reputation by landing in Southern France under *Operation Anvil* (later named *Dragoon*.) Operation Dragoon became controversial, the British arguing that it sapped the strength of the main Allied efforts in the Mediterranean, while the Americans wanted Patch to conduct the amphibious assault to open up ports in Southern France, especially the port of Marseille, France's largest port, to resupply the over-extended supply lines in Northern France. Patch was successful in the assault, commanding three divisions of the 7th and units of the *French Army B* under General Jean de Lattre de Tassigny.

Sy concluded that the Seventh Army was able to foresee and crush the last desperate German counterattack mounted in France, the *Battle of the Bulge*, and join Patton's troops in the closing months of the war. Patch, who was often overshadowed by Patton's colorful and very public persona, deliberately maintained a low profile throughout the war, earning respect through his decisiveness, acute strategic judgment, and deep concern for the safety of his men. The U.S. 7th Army remains to this day *The Forgotten Army*

Thank you Sy Rosen for your insightful presentation to *Preserve History* and for a job well done.

I am pleased to announce that we have one (4) new members who have joined us since the OCTOBER 20th, 2011 meeting:

U.S. Navy Veteran Larry Roberts – Larry served in the U.S. Navy Reserves for 13 years as a Chaplain and obtained the rank of LCDR. He is interested in the passion, pride and stories of WW II vets.

Please welcome Larry as the newest member of the Round Table at the NOVEMBER 17th, 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: **November–Greg McClelland (Valkyrie);** December – Morton (Mort) Waitzman. More info to come on 2012 and 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.

>>> **(NEW) Upcoming Events – DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED** – The ***Roswell Rotary Club*** is sponsoring a round-trip to Washington, DC to view the WW II Memorial. This flight is also open to Korean Vets. The Roswell Rotary Honor Air has sponsored these flights since May 2008 and plans another at a date to be announced. Attendees will meet at the Rotary Club in Roswell, travel via bus to the Hartsfield Atlanta Airport, fly on a chartered flight to DC, where they will be escorted on buses from the Ronald Reagan Airport to the Memorial. Also included in the trip is a visit to the Vietnam Memorial and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Attendees will return to Ronald Reagan Airport and fly back to Atlanta, returning to Roswell on the same day. For every one or two vets, a volunteer guardian will be assigned to assist them. Paramedics and wheel chairs are available for the journey. For more information and applications visit <http://www.roswellrotary/honorairhtml> or contact **Alex Chrzanowski** at 404-213-7831 or **Carl Beck** at 404-321-4660.

>>> **SPECIAL MEMBER SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(NEW) The Round Table Executive Board discussed reducing some of the expenses relative to the Atlanta WW II Round Table Newsletter at the Board Meeting on August 18th. The Board approved asking as many members as possible that have email addresses, if they would be willing to accept only the email version of the newsletter and not a mailed version. This new effort will be rolled-out over several months so members can express their preference for the digital or hard-copy version of the monthly newsletter. I expect by December 31st, 2011 the roll-out should be complete. If you have a email address and are not on the email roster at present, please make your email address known to Adjutant Kovach at 770-928-4579 or email at jkovach2000@yahoo.com. Those members who do not have email addresses will not be affected by this austerity measure.

>>> **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 Goulding can be contacted at **770-436-4254** or via email at rgoulding@charter.net

Monthly Quotation:

I hate newspapermen.....I regard them as spies.....If I killed them all there would be news from Hell before breakfast.
-Gen. William T. Sherman