



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 26 No. 2

252nd MEETING

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

Contributor(s) To This
Newsletter

* Sy Rosen
* Major General Frank Regano
* 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: OCTOBER 20th, 2011 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting NOV. 17th

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: Seymour (Sy) Rosen

Subject: “America’s Forgotten Army – The Story of the U.S. 7th Army During WW II”

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 20th, 2011– Seymour (Sy) Rosen (To Be Introduced By Deputy Commander Weinstein)

The U.S. 7th Army was formed to facilitate the invasion of Sicily in July 1943, called *Operation Husky*, commanded by Lt. General George S. Patton. Patton took official command of the 7th Army while at sea, onboard the *U.S.S. Monrovia*, the flagship of Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, thus creating the 7th's motto, “*Born At Sea, Baptized In Blood.*” Later added was “*Crowned With Glory.*”

The original plan for the 7th was to act as a protecting force for the British 8th Army, commanded by Bernard Montgomery. Patton didn't like the circumstances he found himself in and broke away from his engagements with the 8th Army to follow a plan he had created prior to the invasion to liberate Palermo, the Capitol, on the Island's western shore. This plan had been declined in favor of Montgomery's'. Finding Palermo evacuated by the Germans he then moved north to liberate Messina, thus the Americans were credited with liberating Sicily, although the British encountered most of the resistance on the eastern part of the Island against the battle-hardened *Hermann Goring Panzer Division*.

Many of you will recall from the movie *Patton* with George C. Scott, that it was during the Sicily Campaign that Patton was involved in the two slapping incidents of American GI's. He was almost sent home in disgrace (our own General Dye would agree that *Divine Providence* played a role in keeping Patton in Europe to later command the U.S. 3rd Army to fight the Germans.)

After the Campaign in Sicily, General George Marshall selected General Alexander M. Patch to command the U.S. 7th Army. Patch was a experienced combat officer having served in WW I as a infantry officer and instructor in the Army's Machine Gun School and in the Pacific in October 1942 to organize the reinforcement and defense of New Caledonia. 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.

Under Patch, the 7th Army landed in Southern France in August 1944 and would quickly conduct offensives up the Rhone Valley. It would become the first American Army to reach the German Rhine River. It engaged in several hard-fought battles along the way including *Alsace* and *Lorraine* in 1944-45. Patch crossed the Rhine in the spring of 1945 and his forces captured parts of the *Black Forest* and *Bavaria*, including Hitler's Alpine residence, the *Berghof*.

Sy will delve into the details about why the U.S. 7th Army is called the *Forgotten Army*. Certainly General Patch did not have the charisma or the drama that George Patton had, nor the profanity. Sy will tell things first-hand, having served as a infantryman in Co. G, 7th Infantry Reg. 3rd Infantry Div. in the U.S. 7th Army. Please welcome Sy Rosen as our OCTOBER 20th, 2011 speaker (**252nd Meeting** .)

CONTINUED ON BACK

Review of SEPTEMBER 15th, 2011 Speaker –M.G. Frank Regano (Introduced by Deputy Commander Weinstein)

Major General Regano made a outstanding presentation to us on September 15th. As the General will be the first to admit, he retired to the 'good life' after serving what amounts to decades in the U.S. Army. Among his many assignments, General Regano, witnessed the operations and activities at *Redstone Arsenal* as a 2nd Lieutenant in 1954, while attending an extended course at the *U.S. Army Rocket & Missile School*. This was followed by assignments in Direct/General support to the *NIKE / HERCULES Air Defense Units* in the Chicago-Gary-Milwaukee area, and from 1958-1963 he served in Europe in several *Guided Missile Support Assignments* and as the *Seventh U.S. Army Nuclear Weapons Support Staff Officer*.

While at Redstone, Frank observed that a group of about 125 German Scientists chiefly among them Sturmbannfuhrer of the Paramilitary SS and decorated Nazi War hero Dr. Wernher von Braun, had settled in Huntsville, AL, recently arriving from White Sands, NM. There were lots of rumors floating around about these Scientists and as everyone found out later, they were part of a group of German Rocket Scientists taken out of Germany on orders of President Harry Truman under *Operation Paperclip*, a program principally executed by the Office Of Strategic Services (OSS) to keep this brain-power out of the hands of the British and more importantly out of Russian hands. These were the most sought after Scientists and specialists in Germany with their intense knowledge of Rocket Science and Engineering.

As was noted, the Russians were also very assertive in their attempts to capture these German Scientists as well and did prevail in getting many of the production workers from the Nazi's *Peenemunde' Missile Center* and other Rocket and weapons centers within their sphere of influence, but von Braun was certainly the top Scientist sought, and fortunately for the U.S., he did not want to become a citizen of the Soviet Union, and through his assorted contacts, made this known to U.S. Intelligence.

Von Braun would soon be a household name in America, he and the other Scientists formed a large part of what became the *Army Ballistic Agency* which, along with other agencies, launched the *Explorer I* and *Explorer II* as a much-needed response to the Russian launches of *Sputnik I and II*.

Eventually, Von Braun and many of his group assimilated into NASA and activities in *The Marshall Space Flight Center*. Operation Paperclip was generally declassified in 1973, some information remains classified however to this day.

Thank you Major General Frank Regano for your engaging presentation to *Preserve History* and for a job well done.

>>> **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: **October – Seymour (Sy) Rosen (U.S. 7th Army)**; November – Greg McClelland; 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.

>>> **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:

"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 an 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."