



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 26 No. 8

258th MEETING

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Contributor(s) To This
Newsletter

* Burt Vardeman
* Braswell D. Dean, Jr.
* Randolph Goulding / Lee Weinstein
* Marilyn Pahr/John Davis/Guy Condra
* Jay Lenny/Bob Rivers

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Tel: 404-377-3178

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Asst. Chaplains – Guyton McCall / Bill Sperry

Date: APRIL 19th, 2012 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting MAY. 17th

Time: Social 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: Frank Burton (Burt) B. Vardeman, Jr.

Subject: “ 31 Combat Bombing Missions – 484th Bombardment
Goup – 15th Air Force”

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 19th, 2012– Frank (Burt) B. Vardeman, Jr. (To Be Introduced By Dep. Cmdr. Weinstein)

Our April speaker, Burt Vardeman, survived an incredible 31 missions as a Radio Operator on a B-24 Liberator Bomber (Heavy) with the 484th Bomb Group from October 1944 – April 1945. The 484th Bombardment Group was part of the 15th Air Force, 49th Bombardment Wing, 824 Bombardment Squadron which flew out of Cerignola, Italy. Their primary targets were strategically located oil refineries, oil storage plants, aircraft factories, heavy industry and communications centers in Italy, France, Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania and Yugoslavia.

Burt was born in Columbus, GA and reared in Porterdale and Covington, GA, graduating from Covington High School in 1942 and attended North Georgia College in Dahlonega from 1942-1943. He was drafted into the U.S. Army Air Corps at Ft. McPherson in 1943, attending Radio Training School at the Sioux Falls Army Air Corps base in Yuma, AZ.

After various State-side assignments he arrived in the Gulf of Naples, Naples, Italy assigned to the 484th. The 484th would fly 208 combat missions overall, receiving two Distinguished Unit Citations (DUC.)

At the end of the War in Europe, Burt flew in back to the U.S. in the Liberator and was honorably discharged in October 1945. He entered Auburn University in 1946 and graduated in 1949 with a Bachelor Degree in Building Science. He has held several management positions here in Atlanta including Administrator and Treasurer of the Presbyterian Center HQ of Presbyterian Church in Atlanta; Operations Manager of the Peachtree Center Office Complex of John Portman in Atlanta; Property Manager of Lenox Towers Office Buildings of The Hunt Family of Dallas, TX; and established Vardeman Associates Realty Company in 1989, a Real Estate Brokerage and Consulting company in Atlanta.

Burt is married to Martha Hay Vardeman of Auburn, AL. Martha is a graduate of Auburn University with a Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Education and Sociology, and a PhD in Education and Sociology from the University of Alabama.

Please welcome Burt Vardeman as our April 19th, 2012 speaker (**258th Meeting** .)

Review of MARCH 15th, 2012 Speaker –The Honorable Braswell Deen (Introduced by Deputy Commander Weinstein)

Our March 15th speaker, the Honorable Judge Braswell D. Deen, Jr. comes from a honorable lineage of soldier/statesmen with relatives who fought in the Revolutionary War, Civil War, WW 1 and WW II. The Judge spent over 60 years in public service, 25 ½ of them on the Georgia Court of Appeals, where he retired as Chief Justice. An academic and honorable man, he was instrumental in several life-changing decisions for Georgians such as championing the establishment of Georgia State University and helping document and present the first Women’s Juror Bill in 1953 giving women the right to serve as Jurors.

Judge Deen’s accomplishments speak for themselves, but he acknowledges that he is very proud to have served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Although joining the Marine Corps wasn’t in Deen’s original playbook; baseball was, but nevertheless that’s where he came to be. Before he knew it, he was hitting the beaches at Peleliu with the first wave **CONTINUED ON BACK**

at 7:30AM with the 2nd platoon of Company K, 3rd Bn. 1st Regiment and by 5PM that day on December 15th, 1944, out of the 45 original platoon, less than a dozen were still fighting, the rest either dead or wounded.

The Japanese had by this time evolved island defense tactics to those of 'endurance (*fukakku*) engagements, avoiding decisive battles in favor of deploying their soldiers to caves and other dug-in positions which had to be taken one-by-one, maximizing the casualties of the Marine attack forces. The days of the Japanese *banzai* appeared to be over, and Peleliu's terrain was ideal for the *fukakku* engagement strategy which heavily favored defensive actions. The casualty rate on Peleliu was the highest for U.S. Soldiers of any battle in the Pacific War.

After Deen's decimated platoon was taken off Peleliu, they began training for the invasion of Okinawa, the last battle of WW II. Braswell explained that the landings were completely different on Okinawa compared to Peleliu, the Japanese being confident in their defense strategy, the Marines were not met by much resistance when they first got in. The casualty rate later would amount to 45,000.

Deen spent 51 days in the front lines on Okinawa before being wounded by a Japanese knee mortar. He was taken off the island and spent several months in 5 different hospitals before being honorably discharged.

Thank you Judge Deen for your combat endurance on Peleliu and Okinawa, for your enlightening presentation, for *Preserving History* and for a job well done.

I am pleased to announce that we have six (6) new members who have joined us since the January, February and March 2012 meetings:

WW II Veteran Milton N. Kassel – Milton served during WW II onboard two Patrol/Anti-Submarine ships; USS PCS-1451 (Aleutian Islands) and USS PC-121 and later (1950-51) as a Gunnery Officer onboard the Destroyer/Mine Sweeper USS Fitch (DMS-25) in the North Pacific and Canal Zone.

Veteran Gerald (Jerry) J. Pierce – Jerry is a Vietnam veteran, he did two tours and was wounded on his first tour. He served in the Military Assistance Command Vietnam (MACV) 1968-69, 101st Airborne Division 1970-71. He is a part-time professor and is interested in Pacific Theater.

Veteran William P. Perry – William served at the Ft. Knox Armored School in 1951, Ft. Sill Artillery OCS in 1952, and 44BN, 4 Div. Arty, Germany 1953.

Mark B. Riley – Mark works for Urban Realty/Partners in Atlanta and is interested in all aspects of WW II.

John C. Cook – John is a retired Real Estate Executive.

Michael (Mike) D. Langston – Michael is a member of the Living History Detachments – Parris Island Museum and the 82nd Airborne Museum.

Please welcome Milton, Jerry, William, Mark, John and Mike as the newest members of the Round Table at the April 19, 2012 meeting.

>>> **Upcoming Speakers for – 2012** Program chairman John Davis has done a splendid job in lining up a wonderful list of speakers for the Atlanta WW II Round Table for our January through June 2012 meetings. The following speakers will be making a presentation to the Round Table in: **April – Burt Vardeman (U.S. Army)**: May – Professor Herbert Benario (Intel WW II); June – Col. Glenn Frazier (Bataan Death March). 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) CALANDAR OF EVENTS – Museum of Camaraderie – VICTORY DAY CELEBRATION- MAY 6th**
The American Association of Invalids and Veterans of World War II from the Former USSR will hold a festival commemorating the 67th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. The festival's main purpose is to honor and preserve the memory of individuals affected by World War II. The celebration will feature food, FREE lunch for veterans, live music, raffles, and tours of the Museum of Camaraderie that houses a unique collection of personal World War II memorabilia among other displays. WW II veterans will be given special preferred seating for the event if you RSVP. The dedicated RSVP # is 404-333-7038.

>>> **(NEW) CALANDAR OF EVENTS – 8TH Air Force Heritage Museum – 70TH ANNIVERSARY – MAY 19th**
The 8th Air Force Heritage Museum will celebrate its 70th Anniversary with a Gala Barbecue event at Epps Aviation Hangar at the Peachtree Dekalb Airport on May 19th (Saturday) at 6:30 PM. The event will feature a barbecue, music and a raffle for Bomber Jackets. Donations are being asked of \$100 and are Tax-Deductible. There will be free parking and plenty of seating. If unable to attend, you can mail a check to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum, P.O. Box 1992, Savannah, GA 31402 – Attn: Henry Skipper. Hap Chandler plans to make a short announcement at the April 19th meeting regarding the event and plans to have a table to sell tickets for the event, cash, checks or credit cards will be accepted. For additional information please contact Hap at 404-275-2454 or see him at the April meeting.

>>> **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:

In 1997, Defense Secretary William Cohen stated, "*Others [terrorists] are engaging even in an eco-type of terrorism whereby they can alter the climate, set off earthquakes, volcanoes remotely through the use of electromagnetic waves... So there are plenty of ingenious minds out there that are at work finding ways in which they can wreak terror upon other nations...It's real, and that's the reason why we have to intensify our [counter terrorism] efforts.*"