



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 27 No.4

264th MEETING

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

Contributor(s) To This
Newsletter:

- * Charles G. Shepherd, Jr.
- * Kendrick Kirk
- * Randolph Goulding / Lee Weinstein
- * Marilyn Pahr/John Davis/Larry Robert
- * Jay Lenny/Bob Rivers

Elected Officers 2012-2013

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 – Bill Sperry/Carl Espy

Date: DECEMBER 20th, 2012 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting JAN.17th
NOTE: >>> Reservation Enclosed For 2013 February Banquet) <<<<
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: Charles G. Shepherd, Jr.

Subject: “121st Infantry Regiment -The Old Gray Bonnet Regiment”

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 December 20th, 2012– Charles G. Shepherd, Jr.(To Be Introduced By Dep. Cmdr. Weinstein)

First Lieutenant Charles G. Shepherd, Jr. served with the 121st Infantry Regiment “The Old Gray Bonnet Regiment”, 8th Division in the ETO from July 1944 until the end of the war in Europe. In many ways he followed in his father’s footsteps; Mr. Shepherd, Sr. was a member of the Georgia National Guard and in 1916, at the age of 19 served on the Mexican Border with the 121st Infantry.

The 121st has been a unit of the Georgia Militia and National Guard continuously since 1925 – beginning as the Company of Macon Volunteers’ and currently a regiment of the 48th “Infantry Brigade.”

Shepherd Jr. participated in five major campaigns: *Normandy; Northern France; Ardennes-Alsace; Rhineland and Central Europe.* He received the *Expert Infantryman’s Badge* and as a Platoon Leader of K Company, he received two *Purple Hearts* as well as two *Bronze Stars* for Meritorious Achievement in ground combat against the armed enemy in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations.

Charles also received the *Silver Star* for Gallantry in action on April 2nd, 1945 in the vicinity of Siegen, Germany. The Citation for his *Silver Star* reads: “Leading a patrol through a heavily defended area, Lieutenant Shepherd’s platoon came under fire from 6 or 7 enemy machine guns and heavy rifle fire. Lieutenant Shepherd ordered his men back as he covered their infiltration back to better cover. In spite of the wound in his leg, the intrepid Lieutenant then led his men in the heavy fire-fight that followed. Due to the leadership of Lieutenant Shepherd, over 20 Germans were killed and he did not lose one man. Lieutenant Shepherd’s courage and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.”

Please welcome Charles G. Shepherd, Jr. as our December 20th, 2012 speaker (264th meeting).

Review of November 15th, 2012 Speaker- Kendrick Kirk (Introduced by Deputy Commander Weinstein)

Our November 15th speaker was Kendrick Kirk (William Kendrick-Kirk), the author of the book *Messages in Handlebars, The Youngest Resistance Fighter.* Accompanying Kirk at the meeting were his wife Claire, who translated the historical account from Auduc’s dictation, the subject of Kirk’s book **Jean-Jacques Auduc**, Auduc’s wife Paulette Cornelli and 19 French Nationals.

Kirk’s book details the life and heroism of **Jean-Jacques Auduc**, at the time of WW II, a 12 year old boy who displayed what can only be called pure bravery and courage as a young teenager growing up in France during WW II while the Germans occupied his country. Jean-Jacques became the youngest resistance fighter in the *French Resistance* and thwarted the German efforts at every turn by working to rid France of the occupiers.

Auduc’s entire family supported the *French Resistance*, especially his father

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who vowed to fight the Germans in every way possible after witnessing a group of innocent Nuns and school children literally attacked and strafed by German aircraft killing many of them. Consequently the Auduc's began providing essential support to the *Resistance Networks* formed around Le mans France. This included dangerous support missions working with the American Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) who helped to structure, support and supply the various Resistance groups.

As most of our members know, the *French Resistance* was the most notable of the Resistance movements in the European theater during WW II, which included the *Dutch, Greek and Norwegian Resistance*, the *Italian CLN*, the *Yugoslav Partisans*, the *Polish Home Army* and the *Soviet Partisans* among others.

The Resistance groups altogether thwarted the Nazi efforts with disinformation and propaganda, aided crashed pilots with escape and evasion, engaged in sabotage operations, conducted armed raids on Nazi facilities and troops, conducted guerrilla warfare seizing bridges and other military assets, operated clandestine presses and conducted intelligence and espionage operations. By 1944 the *French Resistance* numbered over 200,000. It is estimated that *French Forces of the Interior (FFI)* killed some 2,000 Germans, while suffering the losses of about 4,000 or 5,000; further, the French losses included about 10,000 civilians killed in German reprisals and about 6,000 collaborators, victims of the French civil war.

After the November 15th meeting, Kendrick wrote a note to the Round Table thanking the organization for welcoming and supporting all of the French Nationals in attendance and his other guests. The note reads as follows:

“The recognition the group received at the WW II Roundtable and throughout their tour meant the world to them. The kindness the Roundtable showed the group will long be remembered by Claire and me. They all returned safely to France, with renewed good feelings about America and Americans. Our best wishes to you and yours for the holidays.” Ken

Ken also wanted to notify all Round Table members about a unique **Radio Station** based in the UK whose format is principally **WW II theme music** and other reports and addresses from WW II. Mr. Kirk relays the following to Round Table members:

Dear friends interested in World War II and its memorable music, Below is the link to a particularly interesting Internet radio station from the UK. Its format includes a wealth of music from the US, reports and addresses from WW II, but no ads except for its own. I believe you will enjoy listening to it as I do almost daily. If so, would you kindly inform all others who might be similarly interested? Many thanks and kind regards, Ken Kirk.

<http://www.1940sukradio.co.uk/>

Thank you Kendrick, Claire and Jean-Jacques for bringing France and America together again and for a job well done.



I am pleased to announce that we have five (5) new members who have joined us since the November 15th, 2012 meeting:

WW II VETERAN Hilbert (Hibby) Margol – Hilbert served with the 42nd Infantry ‘Rainbow’ Division with his twin brother Howard in the ETO. He served in combat in France and Germany and was present at the liberation of Dachau Concentration Camp.

WW II VETERAN Howard Margol – Howard was in the 42nd Infantry ‘Rainbow’ Division right beside Hilbert. Both entered the U.S. Army together in April 1943 and served together in the 42nd. He was also present at the liberation of Dachau.

WW II VETERAN George Sanford Jordan - George served in the 3rd Army – 4th Armored Division under General George Patton. He was a Squad Leader on Halftrack Units and received the *Presidential Citation*, 5 Battle Stars and the French *Fourragère*

WW II VETERAN Lloyd Pittman – Lloyd served with the 492nd Bomb Group in the ETO and was active duty in the 8th Air Force from Feb. 1943 until Dec. 1945. He was a pilot on B-24 Aircraft and flew 21 missions at night over Germany, France, Norway and Denmark.

John C. Martin– John is a musician and interested in Special Operations in the ETO, especially supplying of the underground operations known as *Carpetbaggers*.

Please welcome Hilbert, Howard, George, Lloyd and John as the newest members of the Round Table at the DEC.20th, 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 2012-2013: **Dec. 2012 – Charles G. Shepherd, Jr.- 121st Infantry Regiment, 8th Division;** January 2013 – Howard & Hilbert Margol – U.S. Army. More information will follow as speaking engagements are committed to. Please note that all speakers’ engagements are subject to change.

Our Program Chairman of many years, John Davis, stepped down from this appointed position in June 2012 and continues to serve as *Aide-to-the-Commander*. Member **Larry Robert** accepted the continuing challenges of the Program Committee Chairman and has done a excellent job in securing great speakers and presentations for the Round Table.

As always this is a difficult task and one that Larry welcomes assistance with, so if you are interested in serving on the Program Committee in any capacity please contact Larry at 404-964-9340 or via email at larry.robert@vitas.com



>>> **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 the end more than they wanted freedom, they wanted security. When the Athenians finally wanted not to give to society but for society to give to them, when the freedom they wished for was freedom from responsibility, then Athens ceased to be free.”

Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire
English historian Edward Gibbon