



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 26 No. 6

256th MEETING

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

Contributor(s) To This
Newsletter

* Jonathan Jordan
* Leonard Meyer
* 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: FEBRUARY 18th, 2012 (SATURDAY) >> Next Meeting MARCH. 15th

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 **
(Meals Are Complimentary For Members Who Are Current With Dues)

Speaker: Jonathan (Jon) W. Jordan

Subject: “Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley, And The Partnership That Drove The Allied Conquest In Europe”

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 18th, 2012– Jonathan W. Jordan (To Be Introduced By Deputy Commander Weinstein)

Jonathan Jordan is an associate in the Financial Restructuring Practice Group in King & Spalding's Atlanta office. Jonathan's practice focuses on representation of commercial debtors and creditors in workouts, restructurings, bankruptcy cases, foreclosure proceedings, and commercial litigation.

He is the author of the award-winning book *Lone Star Navy: Texas, the Fight for the Gulf of Mexico*, and *The Shaping of the American West* (Potomac Books: 2007), a contributing author to *The Armchair Reader: World War II and The Armchair Reader: The Amazing Book of World History*, and the editor of the Library of Texas edition of *To the People of Texas*. His writing has appeared in *World War II Magazine*, *Armchair General*, *Military History*, *World War II History*, and *MHQ: The Quarterly Journal of Military History*.

More recently he is the author of “*Brothers, Rivals, and Victors: Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley and the Partnership that Drove the Allied Conquest in Europe.*” Jonathan will elaborate on the fragile relationship between these larger-than-life heroes of WW II and tell us why, out of the thousand Generals present in 1942, only a handful have been remembered; his book puts the spotlight on these three important figures in our Nation's history.

Jordan will give us deep insights into the character of these Generals, what drove them, and oftentimes what made doubt themselves. Eisenhower and Bradley knew each other as Cadets at West Point before WW II began, competing academically and on the sports fields together; they crossed paths with George Patton, Jr. later and all became friends.

Eisenhower was the master tactician of the group, expert in psychological evaluations and cautious in any aggressive tactics; Bradley understood the complexity of sports and often related this to battle, he became an expert in tank warfare but was always an infantryman at heart; Patton, a graduate of The Virginia Military Institute, was the aggressive one in the group, sometimes hated by both his troops and fellow officers, but always respected for his keen combat genius.

A native of Savannah, Georgia, Jon grew up on Air Force bases, from which his father flew C-141 Starlifters for the Military Air Command during the Vietnam War. He lived in New Jersey, Ohio, and the Philippines until 1976, when his family moved to Selma, Alabama. Jon obtained an accounting degree from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama and his law degree from Vanderbilt University. He practiced law in Texas for nine years before moving to Marietta, Georgia. He lives in Marietta with his wife, Kate, and their three children.

Please welcome Jonathan W. Jordan as our FEBRUARY 18th, 2012 speaker (**256th Meeting**)

Review of JANUARY 19th, 2012 Speaker –Leonard A. Meyer (Introduced by Deputy Commander Weinstein)

Leonard is a combat veteran of WW II, having served with the 374th Troop Carrier Group during the *Battle of Biak* from May 27 to June 22, 1944. As Leonard reminded us, Biak is not a familiar Island to most of us today, **CONTINUED ON BACK**

but in 1944 it played a strategic role in the war in the Pacific.

Biak was part of the New Guinea campaign fought between the United States and Japanese armies. In the spring of 1942, the Japanese had built a airfield at Mokner on the Island which was capable of operating bomber aircraft and launching attacks against the Pacific Fleet. They fortified the island with 11,000 troops. U.S. Army reconnaissance revealed that Biak was a promising location for airfields along General MacArthur's line of advance from which he could support Admiral Nimitz's planned landings on the *Marianas* and *Palau*.

General MacArthur had publically promised to return to the Philippines after he and his family and staff were forced to retreat from Corregidor Island in PT boats and escape to Australia. Leonard reminded us that MacArthur's forward intelligence surmised properly that Biak was a true gateway to the retaking of the Philippines, but that it would be costly. MacArthur therefore ordered an expedited attack on May 10th and the main attack began on May 27th using LSTs, LVTs and DUKWs, lead by the 162nd Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army's 41st Division. By 5 in the afternoon, they had landed 12,000 troops with 12 Sherman Tanks, 29 field guns, 500 vehicles and 2400 tons of supplies.

The 3-week battle that followed would result in the capture of Biak Island and would cost the Americans 474 killed, and 2,428 wounded. The Japanese lost about 6,100 killed and 450 captured with about 4,000 unaccounted for, that is, missing in action and presumed dead. Effectively the Japanese forces had been annihilated even though they employed the first major tactical use of ambush tactics during the war in lieu of their furious *banzai* attacks.

These same ambush tactics would be repeated on Peleliu, Okinawa and in the Battle of Iwo Jima, battles which the U.S. Marines expected to be won within days or weeks, but instead lasted for months, with staggering losses not only in valuable time but in still more valuable life and equipment.

Thank you Leonard for your elucidating presentation, for *Preserving History* and for a job well done.

>>> **(UPDATED) 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: **February Banquet – Attorney/Author Jonathan Jordan (Eisenhower-Bradley-Patton / Brothers, Rivals, Victors)**; March- The Honorable Braswell D. Dean, Jr. (U.S. Marine Corps - Peleliu/Okinawa); 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 you're continuing efforts to seek-out and engage excellent speakers for our meetings and for a job exceedingly well done.

>>> **(UPDATED) Upcoming Events – FEBRUARY 2012 BANQUET**– A Reservation Form and Return-Address envelope were included with your December Newsletter for the *Atlanta WW II Round Table's February 18th, 2012 (Saturday) Banquet*. **All Dues-Paying Members (current with Dues) will receive complimentary meals; Guests will have to pay a modest \$ 26.00 per meal.** The selection of meals will be *the Petite's Beef Burgundy Roast, Hunter-Style Roasted Chicken and Fresh Salmon*. The Petite has again offered the entire restaurant to the Round Table based on last year's attendance and we will again have entertainment by *Jill Sherman* and *The Stu McGee Band*; a full compliment of hors d'oeuvres; open bar and festive decorations by Kay Secrist, not to mention a very special guest speaker. Please send your reservation form into our Finance Officer Jay Lenny as soon as possible. Contact Adjutant Kovach at 770-928-4579 or Finance Officer Lenny at 770-638-7824 if you did not receive a Reservation Form and would like to attend the Banquet. **Reservations will need to be booked no later than February 15th 2012 (Wednesday)** to allow the Petite to do appropriate planning. Please note that **Cancellations of Reservations will be accepted up to 72 hours (Wednesday)** prior to the Banquet in order for a refund to be requested. **The Banquet will be the only scheduled meeting for the month of February.** Our next scheduled meeting will be on Thursday, March 15th at 11:30 AM.

>>> **SPECIAL MEMBER SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(UPDATED) 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 February 29th, 2012 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 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 Goulding can be contacted at **770-436-4254** or via email at rgoulding@charter.net

AWWRT Membership Directory – ATTENTION New Members

Do you have your copy? As part of your membership, you are entitled to a Membership Directory which includes bios of many of our WWII veterans and other members. If you have not received your copy, please see me at the February banquet. Marilyn Pahr Attention All MEMBERS! Have you had your picture taken for the directory? Brought in a copy of your service picture? Completed a biography of your time in the service? Please see me at the February Banquet for more information. – Marilyn Pahr

WWII Lending Library

We have over 200 books in our lending library. I will have a wide selection available to members at the February Banquet. Help yourself to a good read – just fill out the card letting us know you have the book and keep it for as long you need to read the book.

Monthly Quotation:

And what we students of history always learn is that the human being is a very complicated contraption and that they are not good or bad but are good and bad and the good comes out of the bad and the bad out of the good, and the devil take the hindmost.

Robert Penn Warren, *All the King's Men*