



## THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 26 No. 5

255<sup>th</sup> MEETING

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

**Contributor(s) To This**  
Newsletter

\* Leonard Meyer  
\* Mort Waitzman  
\* 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:** JANUARY 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting FEB. 18<sup>th</sup> (SAT)

**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](http://www.petiteauberge.com)  
Atlanta, Georgia 30329 (Restaurant Phone: 404-634-6268)

Price: \$ 15.00 Per Plate \*\* NO RESERVATION REQUIRED \*\*

Speaker: Leonard A. Meyer

Subject: “Biak – Little Known Conquest”

### 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 JANUARY 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012– Leonard A. Meyer (To Be Introduced By Deputy Commander Weinstein )**

Leonard will give us a first hand account of the Battle of Biak as a combat veteran of the 374<sup>th</sup> Troop Carrier Group which supported the battle from May 27 to June 22, 1944.

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*.

MacArthur ordered an expedited attack on May 10<sup>th</sup> and the main attack began on May 27<sup>th</sup> using LSTs, LVTs and DUKWs, lead by the 162<sup>nd</sup> Infantry Regiment of the U.S. Army’s 41<sup>st</sup> 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.

Leonard will fill-in the gaps for us, including his analysis of a deadly event which took place during a USO show on Biak at night at which time the Japanese conducted a bomb attack which killed 77 and wounded over 200 during the show. As Divine Providence would have it, the very next day, General MacArthur visited the island. Leonard also had some other bizarre personal occurrences on Biak including being carried ashore and abandoned on the beach by the Captain of his troopship when he contracted Rheumatic Fever; and being arrested by the MP’s on Biak for giving away two Army blankets and some K Rations to two Filipino girls rather than burn them as directed by the Quartermaster who refused to take them.

Please welcome Leonard Meyer as our JANUARY 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 speaker ( **255<sup>th</sup> Meeting** )

---

**Review of DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 Speaker –Mort Waitzman (Introduced by Deputy Commander Weinstein)**

Despite taking a slight fall the week prior to his presentation, Mort appeared spry and began his presentation to the Round Table by giving a broad overview of his life leading up to joining the U.S. Army. Mort was born in Chicago in 1923, the youngest of seven children. His father was from Latvia and his mother Lithuania.

CONTINUED ON BACK

Although he was still in school when WW II began, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in January 1943, joining three of his brothers who had already enlisted.

Mort was highly trained in combat signals intelligence and secret codes. He wanted to fight the Nazis and even turned down a chance to go to Officers Candidate School after his first year of Signals School. He became a proud member of the 115<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light) and landed on Omaha Beach on D-Day. Mort reminded us how fast the 115<sup>th</sup> moved inland, engaging the Germans at Saint Lo a few weeks after D-Day and being bombed and strafed almost every day on their way inland.

Mort had been in almost constant communications with the French Underground before departing England for D-Day, and because of his connections with them he was transferred to Paris after liberating St. Lo, where he took part in the liberation of that city on August 25<sup>th</sup>. In his absence, the 115<sup>th</sup> took part in the Battle for Brest in October 1944, one of the fiercest battles fought during Operation Cobra, the Allied breakout of Normandy which began on 27 July 1944.

Mort was sent back into combat in October 1944 and rejoined the 115<sup>th</sup> to fight in the Netherlands near Maastricht. That December he fought in the Battle of the Bulge, receiving a Bronze Star for valor after being wounded by a mortar capturing the City of Julich. Shortly after he recovered, he rejoined the 115<sup>th</sup> and took part in the capture of Munchen-Gladbach, HQ of the Nazi Propaganda Minister Paul Josef Goebbels, and at this time also liberating the forced labor camp of Dinslaken. The 115<sup>th</sup> then went on to capture the infamous camp of Dora-Mittelbau, near Nordhausen, in April 1945, where the Germans were launching their V-I and V-II rockets against London.

Thank you Mort for your excellent presentation, for *Preserving 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 DECEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011 meeting:*

**WW II Veteran Frank Borowiec** – Frank served in the U.S. Army Air Force, 20<sup>th</sup> Weather Squadron, in the Pacific, New Guinea, the Philippines, Okinawa and Japan.

**USAF Veteran Monroe M. Saye** – Monroe served in the USAF Strategic Air Command ( SAC ), 544<sup>th</sup> Aerospace Reconnaissance Technical Wing, Offutt AFB, Nebraska. He specialized in creating aerial maps and charts and served as the Executive Officer of a 300-man Target Materials Division.

**Deborah G. Lindsay** – Deborah is a historian and serves on the Board of Trustees of the National WW II Museum in New Orleans. She is currently writing a book about the Nazi Concentration Camps.

**Jane Kimbrell**– Jane is a Realtor. Her interest in WW II stems from two of her uncles that were WW II veterans who were graduates of West Point and career U.S. Air Force veterans.

**John Kemp** - John is a lawyer and a student of military history.

*Please welcome Frank, Monroe, Deborah, Jane and John as the newest members of the Round Table at the JANUARY 19<sup>th</sup>, 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: **JANUARY- Leonard Meyer (U.S. Army-Pacific); February Banquet** – 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 your continuing efforts to seek-out and engage excellent speakers for our meetings and for a job exceedingly well done.

>>> **(NEW) 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 18<sup>th</sup>, 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 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (Wednesday)** to allow the Petite to do appropriate planning. Please note that **Cancellations of Reservations will be accepted up to 48 hours (Thursday)** 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.** More info will follow on the Banquet in the February 2012 Newsletter.

---

>>> **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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 31<sup>st</sup>, 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](mailto: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](mailto:rgoulding@charter.net)

---

Monthly Quotation:

*"Being the richest man in the cemetery doesn't matter to me ... Going to bed at night saying we've done something wonderful... that's what matters to me."* Steve Jobs – Apple Computer ( 1955-2011)