



## THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 26 No. 7

257<sup>th</sup> MEETING

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

**Contributor(s) To This**  
Newsletter

\* Braswell D. Deen, Jr.  
\* Jonathan Jordan  
\* 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:** MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting APRIL 19<sup>th</sup>

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

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

**Speaker:** The Honorable Braswell D. Deen, Jr.

**Subject:** “ Peleliu-Okinawa WW II Memories”

### 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 MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012– The Honorable Braswell D. Deen (To Be Introduced By Dep. Cmdr. Weinstein )**

Our speaker for March is the Honorable Braswell D. Deen, Jr. Judge Deen practiced law and served in numerous legislative and judicial capacities and other public service for over 60 years. He is now 86 years young.

At 18 years old, Deen joined the U.S. Marine Corps. It wasn't his original plan which was to play baseball with his friend Charles Greiner in a Class D League in Kingsport, TN, but after Greiner decided to join the Marine Corps, Deen followed him in. He did his boot camp training in San Diego, his instructor telling all the young recruits that he would teach them how to kill with their knives, bayonets and rifles and about Marine discipline. After boot camp he was sent to Numea, New Calidonia for Raider, Japanese weapons and special language training.

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1944 he was sent in with the first wave to hit the beaches at Peleliu at 7:30 AM. Deen recalls that by 5 PM that afternoon, out of the 45 men in that 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon of Co. K, 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn. 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment, less than a dozen were still fighting, the others were either dead or wounded.

(Many of you may recall that the *Battle of Peleliu* was codenamed *Operation Stalemate II*. Military intelligence at the time confirmed that the Japanese military had evolved island defense tactics to those of "endurance (*fukakku*) engagements." Avoiding decisive battles which characterized earlier island campaigns and often included the dramatic *banzai* attack, Japanese commanders instead deployed their soldiers to caves and other dug-in positions which had to be taken one by one—maximizing casualties on the attacking force. Peleliu's terrain proved ideal for such tactics, with areas of rock and cave formations heavily favoring the defenders. Later it would be called "the bitterest battle of the war for the Marines", the casualty rate being the highest for U.S. soldiers of any battle in the Pacific War.)

After losing three more men the following day, Deen's platoon returned to Pavuvu and underwent further training for the invasion of Okinawa, the last battle of WW II. He landed on Okinawa on April 1<sup>st</sup>, 1945 and was in the front-lines for 51 days, the casualty rate was 45,000. After being wounded by scrapnel fragments of a Japanese knee mortar, he spent the following months being treated in 5 different hospitals and then was honorably discharged.

Deen will fill-in the details for us about the *Battle of Peleliu* and the fierce fighting at “*The Point*.” A U.S. Navy ship USS Peleliu (LHA-5) is named for the vicious battle fought on the island of Peleliu. Bob Hope once said that the most emotional show he played in WWII was for the First Marine Division at Pavuvu. He agreed to do the show because the Marines were about to invade Peleliu. Hope later told reporters that he thought about sixty percent of the Marines were "Knocked off in that invasion of Peleliu."

Please welcome Braswell D. Deen, Jr. as our MARCH 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012 speaker ( **257<sup>th</sup> Meeting** .)

**Review of FEBRUARY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Speaker –Jonathan W. Jordan (Introduced by Deputy Commander Weinstein)**

With about 175 in attendance, the 2012 February Banquet was a outstanding success. **CONTINUED ON BACK**

A large part of that success was due to our speaker, Jonathan (Jon) W. Jordan. 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.*" He was able to eloquently 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, these three stand-out and continue to live-on in perpetuity; his book puts the spotlight on these three important figures in our Nation's history.

Jon highlighted that the relationship of these three titans was, for the most part, unstable. Eisenhower and Bradley seemed to see eye-to-eye on most issues for the most part; Patton was kind of a third-leg, and sometimes a unpredictable one at that.

Eisenhower (Ike), the boy from Abilene, KS. who at one time General MacArthur called "the best clerk I ever had" graduated in the upper-half of his class from West Point in 1915. Eisenhower met Omar Bradley (Brad) at West Point and the two became close friends mainly due to the team sports, which they both loved and excelled at; football for (Ike) and baseball for (Brad.)

Patton was a graduate of both the *Virginia Military Institute* (VMI) and West Point, graduating earlier from West Point than Eisenhower and Bradley in 1909, having to repeat his 1<sup>st</sup> plebe year due to failing to meet West Point academic standards. Had it not been for Patton's dyslexia, he would have undoubtedly graduated near the top of his class. Patton was the first of this future trio to see military action in 1917 under General Pershing in WW I, and his reputation soon grew as a natural leader. Patton's love of the tank as a offensive weapon attracted the attention of Eisenhower at this point and they became fast friends.

Jonathan pointed out that synchronicity and Divine Providence played a role in then bringing the three officers together. Chief of Staff of the U.S. Military, General George Marshall, had kept an eye on Eisenhower after he graduated from West Point and singled him out for a senior leadership role at the early signs of another world war. Eisenhower picked his other team members carefully and selected Bradley and Patton for Command positions. And the rest, they say, "is history."

At this year's February Banquet, we were honored to have several notable attendees; Two of the Round Table Charter Members and founders, Jerry Colley and Kay Secrist ( Kay was also responsible for the decorations and roses at each table ); Brigadier General Harold Dye, the highest-ranking officer present; Jim Starnes, the Officer-On-Deck and Navigator onboard the *U.S.S. Missouri* on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1945 in Tokyo Bay during the surrender of the Japanese; Member Jill Sherman (who sang the tunes we all love) along with the wonderful *Stu McGee Trio Band*; and Sally White of the Northside Neighbor Newspapers.

Credit for the Banquet's success also goes to the owners and staff at the Petite for the wonderful meals and allowing the Round Table the use of the entire restaurant, entertainment by Jill Sherman and the Stu McGee Band, Commander Randolph Goulding, Deputy Commander Lee Weinstein, Finance Officer Jay Lenny, Deputy Finance Officer Guy Condra, the Sergeant-At-Arms Team led by Bob Rivers / Bill Shepherd assisting; Sr. Chaplain H.T. Maclin and all the officers and staff of the Round Table.

Thank you Jonathan for your presentation and making the 2012 February Banquet so memorable, 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: **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.

>>> **(NEW) CALANDAR OF EVENTS – MEDAL OF HONOR 2012 LUNCHEON- MAY 11<sup>th</sup> (Friday) 11:00 AM** The 2012 Medal of Honor Luncheon is on Friday, May 11, at 11:00 AM at the *Cobb Galleria*. Sixteen of the 83 living recipients are expected to be in attendance. There will be MOH recipients from WWII to Afghanistan this year! This won't happen again for a long time. Round Table Member Woody Williams will be there; he is the LAST living MOH recipient from Iwo Jima! Additional information can be obtained by calling **Wayne Witter** at 770-393-2118 or emailing him at [captwow@bellsouth.net](mailto:captwow@bellsouth.net)

>>> **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)

#### **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 Marilyn Pahr at the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. 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 March meeting 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 March meeting. 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:

*Do not be tricked into thinking that there are no crocodiles just because the water is still.*

Malaysian Proverb