



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 26 No. 9

259th MEETING

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Newsletter

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- * Burt Vardeman
- * Randolph Goulding / Lee Weinstein
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Asst. Chaplain – Bill Sperry

Date: MAY 17th, 2012 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting JUNE 21st

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: Herbert W. Benario

Subject: “ General Sir John Hackett-Soldier & Academic”

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 MAY 17th, 2012– Herbert W. Benario (To Be Introduced By Dep. Cmdr. Weinstein)

Many of you will be familiar with our May speaker; Professor Benario spoke to the Round Table in December 2010 about “*Classicists In World War II Intelligence Work*”. We are delighted that this month Herbert will give us all the details on a shining example of intellect and courage packaged in one individual, General Sir John Hackett. Hackett was a fighting General who commanded troops for the British Army during the *Syria-Lebanon Campaign* and in the *North African Campaign*, where he Commanded C Squadron of the 8th Hussars. He was severely wounded during both of these Campaigns, particularly during the *North Africa Campaign*, where he was burnt escaping his tank.

While recuperating he was instrumental in the formation of the *Long Range Desert Group (LRDG)* and the *Special Air Service (SAS)*, both of which gave General Irwin Rommel, Commander of the *Afrika Corps* enough trouble that Rommel later commented that the *LRDG* and the *SAS* caused him more damage than any other British units of equal strength. After recovering from his injuries he was selected to Command the 4th *Parachute Brigade* at Arnhem in 1944 during *Operation Market Garden* under the overall Command of General Montgomery. Hackett was severely wounded at Arnhem and would did not recover until WW II ended.

Hackett went on to command other forces for the British Army including the *Trans-Jordan Frontier Force* in 1947; the 20th Armoured Brigade; the 7th Armoured Division after being promoted to Major General; the *Northern Ireland Command* in 1961 and the British Army of the Rhine in 1965 after being promoted to General. He is the author of several books including *The Third World War*; *The Profession of Arms* and *Warfare in the Ancient World* and wrote the foreword/introduction for several books including *The Middle East Commandos* and *The Desert Rats: History of the 7th Armoured Division*

Herbert is married to long-time Round Table member Dr. Janice Benario. He is a academic and *Professor Emeritus* at Emory University in Atlanta. Herbert received his BA from the City College of New York in 1948, a MA from Columbia University in 1949 and his Ph.D. from John Hopkins University in 1951. He is past President of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South and the author of several books including *An introduction to Tacitus*, published in 1975.

Please welcome Herbert W. Benario as our May 17th, 2012 speaker (**259th Meeting**)

Review of APRIL 19th, 2012 Speaker –Burt Vardeman (Introduced by Deputy Commander Weinstein)

Our Deputy Commander introduced Burt as a ‘*Honorary*’ *Tuskegee Airman*. In his explanation of this honor, Lee told us that Burt received a ‘*Tuskegee Angel Airman Cap*’ at a function honoring the *TAM* in North Carolina, they in turn honored Burt with their official Cap due to Burt’s endeavors to preserve the history of this elite group who flew so many combat support missions supporting the *B-24 Liberator Bombers* in the 484th Bomb Group in 1944-1945.

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Burt trained for 17 months to be part of the 484th Bombardment Group, 15th Air Force, 49th Bombardment Wing, 824 Squadron flying out of Cerignola, Italy. He was extremely proud of the level of expertise his 10-man crew on the B-24 Liberator Bomber achieved while flying their missions against 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 reminded us that the 15th AF suffered tremendously during many of their missions, one in particular that was executed before his crew arrived in Italy, which was the first attack of the *Ploiesti Oil Fields* in Romania. This was *Operation Tital Wave* on August 1st, 1943; the Allies lost 53 aircraft and 660 aircrewmen on that mission. That day was later called *Black Sunday*, however Burt said after that the Air Crews never lost sight of their primary objective to destroy all German war resources regardless of the possible losses. *Ploiesti*, and all oil fields, remained a primary target of the Air War and later missions by the 484th and other Bombardment Groups resulted in the complete destruction of the oil fields; the Soviets finally capturing *Ploiesti* in August 1944.

Burt's B-24 crew flew 25 missions together, Burt was asked to fly some additional missions by the Commanding Officer mainly due to being recognized as one of the best Radio Operators in the 484th; he would wind up with 31 missions flown.

Thank you 'Hightower' Vardeman for your 31 combat missions with the 484th, for your enlightening presentation, for *Preserving History* and for a job well done.

I am pleased to announce that we have two (2) new members who have joined us since the April 2012 meeting:

Veteran John (J.R.) R. Miller – John is interested in all aspects of the ETO and CBI / Pacific Theaters. He is a veteran of the Cold War and Vietnam having served in the XXIV Corps Phu Bia, Vietnam (Asst. G2 for Special Intelligence.)

Veteran Andrew J. Davis – Andrew served in the Marine Corps, Marine Air Wing VF1230. He was in the Marine Air Reserve stationed at Dobbins NAS as well as Millington NAS and Cherry Point NAS/North Carolina.

Please welcome John & Andrew as the newest members of the Round Table at the May 17, 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: **May – Professor Herbert Benario (Ref: General Sir John Hackett)**; 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 – 8TH Air Force Heritage Museum – 70TH ANNIVERSARY – MAY 19TH (Saturday)** 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 even 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. **NOTE: The Museum has authorized a limited number of special discounted tickets priced for all WW II veterans at \$ 25 per ticket for the event.** Cash, checks or credit cards will be accepted. Reserve your ticket ASAP to obtain this special price. For additional information please contact **Hap Chandler** at 404-275-2454 or **Henry Howell** at 404-233-0323 or see them at the **May 17th** meeting.

>>> **(NEW) CALANDAR OF EVENTS – VETERANS REMEMBRANCE DAY – MAY 27TH (Sunday)** - The Atlanta History Center will again be hosting **Veterans Remembrance Day** on **May 27th (Sunday)** from 12:00 Noon to 5:00 PM. In past years, many of our Round Table members have had tables at this event and this year the History Center is again requesting your participation. Participating members will be provided a free box lunch and should plan to arrive at the History Center no later than 11:00 AM. For additional information, please contact the **Cary Ann Moody** at the **Atlanta History Center** no later than May 21st to reserve a table. Cary Ann can be contacted at 404-814-4116 or via email at cmoody@atlantahistorycenter.com. The Atlanta History Center is located at 130 West Paces Ferry Rd. NW, Atlanta, GA 30305.

>>> **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

Monthly Quotation:

Sociologist Dr. Anthony Campolo conducted a study in which 50 people over the age of 90 were asked to reflect upon their lives. Each study participant was asked a simple question: "If you had it to do over again, what would you do differently?" There were many answers, but there were two that dominated the study.

"I would reflect more" and "I would risk more"

Have you ever felt like you are too busy doing things and you are not spending enough time thinking about the things you are doing and why you do them? Have you ever thought about the opportunities you may have lost because you were afraid of taking risks? Perhaps these elders have a lesson for all of us.

Reflect more, and take more risks.