



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 27 No.3

263rd MEETING

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Newsletter:

- * **Kendrick Kirk**
- * Dr. Guy A. LoFaro
- * Randolph Goulding / Lee Weinstein
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Date: NOVEMBER 15th, 2012 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting DEC.20th

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: Kendrick Kirk (William Kendrick-Kirk)

Subject: “Messages In Handlebars, The Youngest Resistance
Fighter”

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 November 15th, 2012– Kendrick Kirk (To Be Introduced By Dep. Cmdr. Weinstein)

Our November 15th speaker is Kendrick Kirk (William Kendrick-Kirk), the author of the book *Messages in Handlebars, The Youngest Resistance Fighter*. Kirk will be detailing the story behind the book, the central character being Jean-Jacques Auduc. Mr. Auduc will also be a guest of the Round Table as well as Kirk’s wife Claire who translated the historical account from Auduc’s dictation.

Jean-Jacques was awarded the *U.S. Medal of Freedom* and the *French Legion of Honor* for heroism as a 12 year old boy growing up in France during the German occupation. Jean-Jacques entire family supported the *French Resistance* by providing essential support to the network formed around Le Mans, France, by an American Office of Strategic Services (OSS) agent and a French Special Operations Executive (SOE) agent. The book highlights how the *French Resistance* played such a vital role in the Allied victory in WW II supported by the OSS and SOE which helped to structure, support, supply and spearhead the various 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.

General Eisenhower also estimated the value of the resistance to have been equal to 10 to 15 divisions at the time of the Normandy landings (One infantry division (ID) represented about 10,000 men.). According to General George S. Patton, Jr. the rapid advance of his Third U.S. Army through France would have been impossible without the fighting aid of the *French Resistance*.

Mr. Kirk has a MBA from Georgia State University, was granted a full fellowship to study for a Ph.D in economics at GSU and has taught finance at Kennesaw State University. In his professional career he has been a Real Estate developer in Marietta, GA for 27 years and the owner of a 52-acre and 12-building *Chateau RiveSarthe* near Le Mans France.

Please welcome Kendrick Kirk as our distinguished November 15th speaker; Jean-Jacques Auduc; Jean-Jacques wife Mrs. Paulette Cornelli; Kirk’s wife Claire and 19 other *French Nationals* who will be in attendance (263rd meeting.)

Review of October 18th, 2012 Speaker- Guy A. LoFaro (Introduced by Deputy Commander Weinstein)

Dr. LoFaro gave the Round Table a excellent presentation on Oct. 18th about the 82nd Airborne Division, a Division organized on August 25th, 1917 at Camp Gordon, Georgia. It took on the name of *The All-American Division* which was the basis for its famous AA Shoulder-Patch. During WW I the Division fought primarily in France at St. Mihiel and in the Meuse-Argonne battle, suffering over 8000 casualties. One of its most well-known members, Sgt. Alvin York, won the Medal of Honor during the Meuse-Argonne Battle.

After WW I, the 82nd became a Reserve Unit until it was reactivated in 1942 under the command of Major General Omar Bradley at Camp Claiborne, LA. It would go on to fight as a Airborne Unit during the invasion of Sicily (Operations Husky and Husky II), the Battles of Salerno and Anzio in Italy, the D-Day landings in France, Operation Market Garden in Holland, The Ardennes-Alsace Campaign in Belgium, and Operation Eclipse in Germany (the plan for a Parachute Assault by 2 Airborne Divisions to capture Berlin before the Russians could get to it.) Altogether, the 82nd suffered another 6700 casualties in WW II. The Division had 3 *Medal of Honor* recipients and was awarded the *Presidential Unit Citation*.

Guy's book, *The Sword of St. Michael: the 82nd Airborne Division in World War II*, is the first comprehensive history of the 82nd, a Division that spent more time in combat than any other American airborne unit of World War II. His book has been called an encyclopedia of this amazing division. At 358,000 words he weaves a complex tale of the 82nd, and gives us a detailed inside look at all the engagements, large and small, of the "devils in baggy pants" and how the 82nd gained a reputation as the premier fighting unit of World War II.

Professor LoFaro brought a unique prospective to the Round Table as both a author and teacher. While at West Point he was the course director for the required two-semester course of Military History, the single largest course taught at the academy. He also taught courses on the history of revolutions and revolutionary warfare and conducted several academic seminars on various aspects of WW II.

Guy, is a 23-year veteran Army combat veteran serving in a variety of command and staff positions, to include two tours of duty with the 82nd Airborne Division, a tour of duty with the 2nd Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea, four years as a Ranger Instructor and Company Commander at the Army's elite Ranger school, and six years as an assistant Professor of history on the West Point faculty. It was from West Point that Lofaro graduated in 1981, going on to get his M.A. in history from the University of Michigan and his Ph.D. in history from Stony Brook University in 2007

LoFaro's other contributions to historical writing include several entries to *History in Dispute, World War II, 1942-1945* (Cengage Gale, 2000); a chapter in *City Fights* (Random House, 2003); and articles and reviews to academic journals. He has also served as a contributor and consultant to popular history venues such as *The History Channel* and *PBS*. He is presently working on a biography of General James 'Slim Jim' M. Gavin, the 'Jumping General' and Commander of the 505th PIR/82nd Airborne Division.

Thank you Dr. LoFaro for your service in the 82nd and at West Point and for a job well done.



I am pleased to announce that we have seven (7) new members who have joined us since the October 18th, 2012 meeting:

Veteran Charles (Tommy) T. Tillman – Charles served with the 325th AJR – 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg from 1953-55. He is interested in anything and everything dealing with Airborne Ops, especially in Europe.

Veteran John R. Keys – John served in the U.S. Army Reserves during the Vietnam Era.

Veteran Franklin Cox – Franklin served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a Artillery Forward Observer in Vietnam. He is the author of *Lullabies for Lieutenants* and is the recipient of the 2011 Military Writers Society of America Silver Medal for Non-Fiction.

Camille Yow – Camille is interested in the entire history of World War II.

Emily Carley – Emily is a essential part of the *Witness-To-War organization* along with fellow member Tom Beaty. She is interested in pursuing her objective of helping veterans record their war-time memories for their families and the public.

William (Rod) R. Davis – Rod is interested in the ETO. His father was in the Navy during WW II. He is a member of Tom Beaty's team at the *Witness-To-War organization*.

John Culpepper – John is interested in the general history of WW II and is retired living in Stone Mountain.

Please welcome Tommy, John, Franklin, Camille, Emily, Rod and John as the newest members of the Round Table at the NOV.15th, 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: **Nov. 2012 – Kendrick Kirk** – (*Author of Messages in Handlebars – The Youngest Resistance Fighter*); Dec. 2012 – Charles G. Shepherd, Jr.- U.S. 8th Division. Please note that all speakers' engagements are subject to change.

It should be noted that John Davis stepped down from the appointed position of Program Chairman effective with our June 2012 meeting and will continue serving as *Aide-to-the-Commander*. Member **Larry Robert** has accepted the continuing challenges of the Program Committee Chairman and has recently appointed **Penn Templeman** as his assistant Program Chairman. If you are interested in serving on the Program Committee 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 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:

When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it"

Henry Ford