



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 27 No.5

265th MEETING

Editor: John E. Kovach
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Date: JANUARY 17th, 2013 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting FEB. 16th (SAT.)

Contributor(s) To This
Newsletter:

- * Howard & Hilbert Margol
- * Charles G. Shepherd, Jr.
- * Randolph Goulding / Lee Weinstein
- * Marilyn Pahr/John Davis/Larry Robert
- * Jay Lenny/Bob Rivers

Elected Officers 2012-2013

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 – Bill Sperry/Carl Espy

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: Howard & Hilbert Margol

Subject: “Eye Witness’s Account – Liberation Of Dachau”

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(s) for January 17th, 2013– Howard & Hilbert Margol (To Be Introduced By Dep. Cmdr. Weinstein)

Identical twin brothers, Howard and Hilbert (Hibby) Margol were born in Jacksonville, Florida on February 22nd, 1922 About 10 minutes apart. They graduated from High School and started their freshman year at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL.

Both were enrolled in the ROTC program and enlisted in an Army reserve unit, and in March 1943 were called to active duty, reporting to Camp Blanding, FL. in April 1943. After training at Fort Bragg, NC for 13 weeks as gunners on 105mm Howitzers, they were scheduled to attend Officer Training School but opted instead to enter the *Army Specialized Training Program* (ASTP). This program provided a large pool of ready-trained soldiers and in February 1944 about 110,000 ASTP students were told they would be transferred to combat units in preparation for the invasion of Europe.

Shortly thereafter the ASTP Program was cancelled, largely in part by General Lesley J. McNair who felt the ASTP took young men with leadership potential away from combat positions where they were most needed. McNair stated "...with 300,000 men short, we are sending men to college.". McNair initiated cancellation of the ASTP Program in early 1944. Howard would wind up in the 104th Infantry Timberwolf Division in the Mohave Desert, California; Hilbert in the 42nd Infantry Rainbow Division at Camp Gruber, OK.

Many of you will recall that the five (5) *Sullivan Brothers* perished as a result of the sinking of the *U.S.S. Juneau* when struck by a Japanese torpedo in November 1942. After this incident, the military made it a policy to prohibit brothers from serving together in combat units. Mrs. Margol was adamant that her sons be allowed to serve together, and wrote a letter to President Roosevelt requesting that Howard and Hilbert not be separated during the war. Roosevelt gave Mrs. Margol the status of a *Two-Star Mother* and granted the brothers a *Special Presidential Consent* to serve together. Shortly thereafter Howard joined Hilbert's unit at Camp Gruber.

At the beginning of January 1945 they landed at Marseille, France and two weeks later moved up to the front lines in France engaging the Germans in combat. The brothers fought side-by-side in France and Germany and both were present at the liberation of *Dachau Concentration Camp* on April 29th, 1945.

The liberation of *Dachau* was a major event signaling the end of the war in Europe. General Dwight D. Eisenhower issued a communique over the capture of *Dachau Concentration Camp*: "Our forces liberated and mopped up the infamous concentration camp at Dachau. Approximately 32,000 prisoners were liberated; 300 SS camp guards were quickly neutralized."

Please welcome Howard and Hilbert Margol as our January 17th, 2013 speakers (265th meeting).

CONTINUED ON BACK

Review of December 20th, 2012 Speaker- Charles G. Shepherd, Jr. (Introduced by Deputy Commander Weinstein)

First Lieutenant Charles G. Shepherd, Jr. went into Normandy as a replacement officer along with three other officers with the 121st Infantry Regiment "The Old Gray Bonnet Regiment", 8th Division to relieve the 82nd Airborne.

Charles gave us details of the daily routines and struggles of his Infantry Regiment and the fighting leading up to the bombing of St. Lo and the breakout the Allies endeavored to make with the saturation bombing during Operation Cobra. Many small towns needed to be liberated and cleared of the Germans before and after the breakout, Charles's Regiment welcomed the sound of Church Bells going into the many towns they went through as it generally was a signal from the townspeople that the soldiers would not meet any enemy resistance.

Shepherd also pointed out the difficulty of saturation bombing, which in the case of St. Lo and Operation Cobra resulted in the death of elements of the U.S. Army forces in close proximity to the bombing, including General Leslie McNair who was observing the operation(s).

As many of you will recall, General McNair had been sent to the ETO with the possibility of replacing General George Patton as Commander of the imaginary *First US Army Group (FUSAG)*. He became the highest ranking officer killed in WW II.

The 121st became part of Patton's 3rd Army which was activated shortly after Operation Cobra in August 1944. The 121st has been a unit of the Georgia Militia and National Guard continuously since 1925 – beginning as the Company of Macon Volunteers' and currently a regiment of the 48th "Infantry Brigade."

Shepherd Jr. participated in five major campaigns: *Normandy; Northern France; Ardennes-Alsace; Rhineland and Central Europe*. He received the *Expert Infantryman's Badge* and as a Platoon Leader of K Company, he received two *Purple Hearts* as well as two *Bronze Stars* for Meritorious Achievement in ground combat against the armed enemy in the European-African-Middle Eastern Theater of Operations.

Charles also received the *Silver Star* for Gallantry in action on April 2nd, 1945 in the vicinity of Siegen, Germany. The Citation for his *Silver Star* reads: "*Leading a patrol through a heavily defended area, Lieutenant Shepherd's platoon came under fire from 6 or 7 enemy machine guns and heavy rifle fire. Lieutenant Shepherd ordered his men back as he covered their infiltration back to better cover. In spite of the wound in his leg, the intrepid Lieutenant then led his men in the heavy fire-fight that followed. Due to the leadership of Lieutenant Shepherd, over 20 Germans were killed and he did not lose one man. Lieutenant Shepherd's courage and devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service.*"

Thank you Lieutenant Shepherd for your heroism, a fine presentation and for a job well done.



I am pleased to announce that we have one (1) new member who has joined us since the December 20th, 2012 meeting:

VIETNAM VETERAN Marc Ratliff – Marc served in Viet Nam and is interested in all aspects of USN Submarine actions in the Pacific.

Please welcome Marc as the newest member of the Round Table at the JAN.17th, 2013 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: **January 2013 – Howard & Hilbert Margol – U.S. Army**; February 2013 – Fred Sheer- 5TH US Army; March 2013 Col. Jay Masters – Air Force; April – Bruce Gamble – Author "*Lightning Strike: The Secret Mission To Kill Admiral Yamamoto And Avenge Pearl Harbor*"; May – Phil Nordyke – Author "*Put Us Down In Hell- Combat History of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment in WW II*". More information will follow as speaking engagements commitments are made. Please note that all speakers' engagements are subject to change.

Larry Robert accepted the continuing challenges of the Program Committee Chairman and has done a excellent job in securing great speakers and presentations for the Round Table.

As always this is a difficult task and one that Larry welcomes assistance with, so if you are interested in serving on the Program Committee in any capacity 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 Quotations:

"A great civilization is not conquered from without, until it has destroyed itself from within. The essential causes of Rome's decline lay in her people, her morals, her class struggle, her failing trade, her bureaucratic despotism, her stifling taxes, her consuming wars." –

Will Durant, The Story Of Civilization III, Epilogue, 1944

"Why, exactly, didn't government of the people, by the people and for the people perish permanently from the earth, despite repeated contests with opponents, from the Duke of Alba to Stalin, who seemed to have everything going for them, who viewed their disorganized, disunited opponents with open contempt? We seem a bit like the Fool, continually stepping off cliffs, but repeatedly borne back up to the heights on the wings of angels, fighting off armored knights with a wooden stick, casting our bread on the water and getting it back a thousand-fold, at our wisest when least sober. Is it pure dumb luck that keeps saving us from our own stupidity?"

The Lily: Evolution, Play, and the Power of a Free Society.