



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 27 No. 7

267th MEETING

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Contributor(s) To This
Newsletter

* Lt. Col. Vincent Masters
* Fred Scheer
* Randolph Goulding / Lee Weinstein
* Joe Jordan / Jim Dean
* Jay Lenny / Bob Rivers

Elected Officers 2012-2013

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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

Date: MARCH 21st, 2013 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting APRIL 18th

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: Lt. Colonel Vincent W. Masters

Subject: “Command in the Air & The 3rd Scouting Force”

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 21st, 2013– Lt. Col. Vincent Masters (To Be Introduced By Deputy Commander Weinstein)

Our March 2013 speaker enlisted in the U.S. Army as a private in January 1942 at the age of 21. He entered the *Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet Program* the following month and graduated from Luke Field, AZ. In single-engine training in August 1942 with the rank of Second Lieutenant.

Vince (Jay) Masters was then assigned to B-17 Heavy Bombardment aircraft training and after graduation named First Pilot and Aircraft Commander. Flight training continued until February 1943 when Masters and his crew were selected to become the Lead Crew to prepare a new *B-17 Flying Fortress* Squadron for WW II combat. Masters was promoted to Captain.

In August 1943 Captain Masters became Squadron Operations Officer and obtained the rank of Major. He completed his 28 missions as acting Command Pilot in July 1944 and was given the option to return to the U.S. for reassignment. Masters declined this option and elected to remain in the ETO.

In August 1944 he formed and assumed command of an elite group called The *3rd Scouting Force*, a Secret Scouting Force flying the *P-51 Mustang* Fighters. This force became a efficient combat force flying ahead of the bomber stream to report weather conditions to the Command Pilots leading the bombing missions (*Their efficiency resulted in downing 22 German Fighters while defending the bombers.*)

Masters obtained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel as commanding officer of this elite group. After Germany surrendered in 1945 he was chosen to become Deputy Chief of Staff/Operations for Maj. Gen. Earl Partridge, Commanding General of the *3rd Air Division, 8th Army Air Force*. He was then detached to the *Continental Air Forces*, Washington, D.C. recruiting personnel for a weather recon force for the *20th Army Air Force* in the South Pacific Theater of Ops. The Japanese surrendered in August 1945.

After WW II, Colonel Masters was assigned to fly Texas Congressman Gene Worley on a assessment tour of the post-war economic conditions in the Middle East; he then became a pilot for Trans World and Western Airlines. He then left the air and attended Stanford University Medical School and earned his Medical Degree in 1953.

The Colonel will fill us in on several other details of his operations during WW II, please welcome Lt. Colonel Vincent W. Masters as our March 21st, 2013 speaker (**267th Meeting.**)

Review of FEBRUARY 16th, 2013 Speaker –Fred Scheer (Introduced by Deputy Commander Weinstein)

Many members attending the February 16th, 2013 Banquet referred to it as one of the best the Round Table has had over the years. Our speaker, Fred Scheer treated us to a seldom heard story of his WW II combat experience leading up to his capture and being taken as a POW.

One of Fred’s gruesome memories was actually while going through basic training at Fort Riley, Kansas and additional training at Fr. Buckner, NC was what he referred to as the worse case of Poison Ivy he has ever had. He overcame this to go onto Fort George Mead in Maryland and then sailing out on the *Empress of Australia*, a ocean liner **CONTINUED ON BACK** built in 1913-1919 in Stettin, Germany (*now Szczecin, Poland*) and converted to a troop carrier for the war.

The *Empress* took the troops to England and Northern Ireland in preparation for the D-Day invasion of France. Fred landed on *Utah Beach* on July 10th, 1944. Trucked inland and fox-holed for 17 days, Fred's Company moved out to engage the Germans, his Company Commander being killed right before his eyes in a barrage of German artillery. This was the first death of a Officer seen by many of the new recruits in his Company of the 5th Division.

Fred's new Company Commander assigned him to a squad to commandeer additional ammunition and during the loading and unloading the squad came under more German Artillery and Machine Gun fire. Unprotected on both flanks and surrounded, the Squad was forced to surrender. They were transported to Aldorf, German, Stalag IV-F near a major rail center in the Bavarian countryside.

Fred reminded us that if you had or received any *Lucky Strike Cigarettes* in the POW camp, they became worth more than Gold. Certain prisoners were separated out if found to be Jewish and sent to special labor camps (where the Germans usually worked them/starved them to death.) All the POW's all had orange stars sewn on the back of their shirts to ID them, making escape attempts difficult. Nevertheless, the POW's made several attempts to escape, fortunately the Germans tolerated the attempts since many of them sensed that Germany was losing the War. Fred's third attempt to escape was successful as news that the end of the war was imminent.

Thank you Fred for sharing your story with the Round Table, for *Preserving History* and for a job well done.



I am pleased to announce that we have three (3) new members who have joined us since the February 16th meeting:

Sid Stein – Sid is retired and is a member of several Civic and Volunteer groups. He is interested in the ETO

Mike Babcock – Mike lives in Atlanta, is a Attorney and is interested in the World War II history.

Mike Malloy – Mike is a Mortgage Loan Officer at Heritage Bank and is interested in all aspects of WW II.

Please welcome Sid, Mike and Mike as our newest members at the March 21st, 2013 meeting.

>>> ***NEW MEMBERS - Please note that we did NOT introduce NEW MEMBERS at the February 2013 Banquet. New members who joined the Round Table in January, February and prior to the March meeting (Dr. Michael Gold, Sylvan Berlin and Andy Tymchuk) will be introduced and inducted at the March 21st 2013 meeting along with Sid Stein and Mike Babcock and Mike Malloy.***



SPECIAL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS

>>> ***(UPDATED) UPCOMING SPEAKERS for - 2013*** Program chairman Larry Robert 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 2013 meetings. The following speakers will be making a presentation to the Round Table in: **March- Col. Vincent (Jay) Masters – Air Force**; April – Bruce Gamble – Author “*Fortress Rabaul: The Battle for the Southwest Pacific, January 1942 – April 1943*” ; May – Phil Nordyke – Author “*Put Us Down In Hell – Combat History of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment in WW II*”; June – To be announced. Please note that the speaker's engagements are subject to change. Thank you Larry Robert for you're continuing efforts to seek-out and engage excellent speakers for our meetings and for a job exceedingly well done.

>>> ***(NEW) The BRITS ARE COMING*** – The *British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC)* is coming to Atlanta to produce a major eight-part series focusing on the ‘art’ of branding through the achievements of one of the World's most successful companies, Atlanta's own *Coca-Cola*; the story of how, during WW II, *Coca-Cola*, was sent around the World with American Soldiers to provide a ‘*taste of home.*’ The team coming to Atlanta would like to speak to American veterans of WW II about their experiences of the campaign and in particular their memories of *Coca-Cola* at that time, exploring the importance of ‘*home comforts*’ while of service abroad and look at *Coca-Cola*'s position as a national icon. If you are interested in being interviewed for this event, please contact Jim Dean, PR Officer of the *Military Orders of World Wars*, at 404-966-6827 or our own Joe Jordan, Round Table Sergeant-At-Arms team member, at 770-432-4565 asap. Interviews will be conducted end of March/early April.

>>> ***(NEW) UPCOMING EVENT – Night At The Museum – May 17, 2013 – 6:00PM – 9:00PM***
The Atlanta History Center is asking for WW II veterans (and reenactors) to participate in this last event before the History Center breaks for the summer. They are looking for soldiers to be part of their exhibitions which will feature characters such as Amelia Earhart, Civil Rights Leaders and others. Participants will interact with the kids attending in a museum-wide scavenger hunt and will help the museum come-to-life! Please call Sara Wilder at 404-814-4000 if you would like to participate in the event.

>>> ***(NEW) HEARING AIDS Commander Goulding has a limited number of special Hearing Enhancers that the Round Table is making available for members and guests. These Bell & Howell Hearing Enhancement devices have both a volume control and on-off switch and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please note that these need to be returned to Commander Goulding after each meeting.***



>>> ***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:

“Be careful to leave your children well instructed rather than rich, for the hopes of the instructed are better than the wealth of the ignorant”

Epictetus AD55-135 (Greek Sage & Philosopher)