



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 27 No. 9

269th MEETING

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- * Phil Nordyke
- * Bruce Gamble
- * Randolph Goulding / Lee Weinstein
- * Joe Jordan / Jim Dean
- * Jay Lenny / Bob Rivers

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Date: MAY 16th, 2013 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting JUNE 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: Phil Nordyke

Subject: “Put Us Down In Hell – The Combat History Of The 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment In World War II”

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 16th, 2013– Phil Nordyke (To Be Introduced By Deputy Commander Weinstein)

The MAY 16th, 2013 (THURSDAY) meeting of the Atlanta WW II Round Table will feature Phil Nordyke as our speaker. Phil is a 30-year veteran of the high-tech industry, working for such companies as Cisco Systems, Xerox, Texas Instruments and a number of venture capital-funded early-stage tech-startup companies.

Mr. Nordyke has written six books about the World War II 82nd Airborne Division including *All American All The Way-The Combat History of the 82nd Airborne Division in World War II*; *The All Americans in World War II*; *Four Stars of Valor*; *More Than Courage and An Irresistible Force*. His latest book is *Put Us Down In Hell – The Combat History of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment in World War II*, which was released in August 2012.

Phil will focus in part on the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment which you recall was one of the elite parachute regiments of World War II. Aptly named the *Red Devils*, they were attached to the famed 82nd Airborne Division. One of their first actions in WW II was to make a night jump into Normandy on D-Day June 6, 1944, preceding the Allied invasion. They underwent heavy fighting for 34-days before being relieved then turned-around only 6 days later and made a daylight jump 53 miles behind German lines to lead the invasion into Holland; then rushed into Belgium to help relieve the Allies unforeseen onslaught in the *Battle of the Bulge* in the Ardennes (*Phew, I'm out of breath.*) Phil will give us a much better idea of just how bad these *bad-boys* were and why the Germans feared their presence.

Mr. Nordyke's first book, *All American All The Way-The Combat History of the 82nd Airborne Division in World War II*, was a finalist for the Army Historical Foundation's 2005 Distinguished Writing Award and was an Editor's Choice main selection of the Military Book Club. His other books are featured by the Military Book and History Book Clubs as Editor's Choice alternate selections.

Phil serves as the historian for the *World War II 505th Regimental Combat Team Association*. He resides in McKinney, Texas with his wife, Nancy.

Please welcome Phil Nordyke as our May 16th, 2013 speaker (**269th Meeting.**)

Review of APRIL 18th, 2013 Speaker –Bruce Gamble (Introduced by Deputy Commander Weinstein)

Award-winning author and historian Bruce Gamble gave the Round Table a wonderful presentation on April 18th. Bruce focused on the story behind his 2010 book *Fortress Rabaul: The Battle for the Southwest Pacific, January 1942-April 1943* which highlights the story of what was to become known as *The Yamamoto Mission*.

The mission was officially chronicled as *Operation Vengeance* by the U.S. Military, a devious plan to assassinate Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, believed to be the architect of the December 1941

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attack on Pearl Harbor that brought the U.S. into a state of War with the Japanese Empire.

Operation Vengeance was, almost needless to say, top-secret for obvious reasons. However, unknown to most of the military, the Japanese Naval and Diplomatic codes had been breeched and the U.S. was aware of Yamamoto's itinerary on any particular day. Naval Intelligence planners waited for their chance and quickly formulated a plan which was executed exactly one-year following the United States' most direct *blow* to Japan; *The Doolittle Raid*.

The specially fitted P-38's flying South and West out of the Solomon's engaged Yamamoto's transport on April 18th, 1943 and *killer* flight team sealed his fate. The Admiral was found at the crash site still buckled in his seat with several 50-calibre bullet holes in him including one through his head. As expected, the Admiral's death decimated Japanese moral; took away their most experienced and accomplished Naval officer, while boosting the Allies glee for retribution.

Bruce is the author of four other titles including: *The Black Sheep: The Definitive History of Marine Fighting Squadron 214 in World War II* (published in 1998); *Black Sheep One: The life of Gregory "Pappy" Boyington* (published in 2000); *Darkest Hour: The True Story of Lark Force at Rabaul – Australia's Worst Military Disaster of World War II* (published in 2006); *Swashbucklers and Black Sheep: A Pictorial History of Marine Fighting Squadron 214 in World War II* (published in 2012)

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



I am pleased to announce that we have one (1) new member who has joined us since the April 18th meeting:

WW II Veteran B. Richard Sadler – Richard served in the *Royal Marines* in WW II and participated in the D-Day assault in Normandy and throughout Germany.

Please welcome Richard as our newest member at the MAY 16th, 2013 meeting.



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: **May – Phil Nordyke – Author “Put Us Down In Hell – Combat History of the 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment in WW II”**; June – Deborah Lindsay – The National World WW II Museum / New Orleans. 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) UPCOMING EVENT – Night At The Museum – May 17th (Friday), 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) UPCOMING EVENT – Military Timeline - May 25th (Saturday), 2013 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM***

Spend a day in the company of veterans and hear their stories of wartime through personal accounts and memorabilia. *Living history interpreters* represent soldiers of previous wars by showing authentic dress, equipment, and vehicles.

>>> ***(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 Quotations:

The mind is its own place and in itself, can make a Heaven of Hell, a Hell of Heaven.

John Milton – (9 December 1608 – 8 November 1674) from “*Paradise Lost*”

Spartans and Spartan soldiers primarily ate pork stew, the “black broth” (μέλας ζωμός melas zōmos). it was so much valued that the elderly men fed only upon that, leaving what flesh there was to the younger. It was famous amongst the Greeks. “Naturally Spartans are the bravest men in the world”, joked a Sybarite, “anyone in his senses would rather die ten thousand times than take his share of such a sorry diet”.

It was made with pork, salt, vinegar and blood. The dish was served with maza, figs and cheese sometimes supplemented with game and fish. Spartan cooks were prohibited from cooking anything other than meat.

The most widespread drink was water. The Spartans thus lived and were sustained just as the fountain lives by virtue of the water that flows through it.

Plutarch (c. A.D. 45-125) from *The “Moralia”*