



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 28 No. 10

280th MEETING

Editor: John E. Kovach

Tel: (770) 928-4579

Contributor(s) To This

Newsletter

* Dave Smith

* Bruce Gamble

* Lee Weinstein / Marilyn Pahr

* Fletcher Thompson / Randolph Goulding

* Bob Rivers / Carl Beck

Elected Officers 2013-2014

Commander – Lee Weinstein

Tel: 404-843-0779

Deputy Cmdr. - Marilyn Pahr

Tel: 404-888-0767

Adjutant: John Kovach

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 –

Tel:

Chaplain Emeritus – B.G. Harold A. Dye

Asst. Chaplains – Bill Sperry/Carl Espy

Date: JUNE 19th, 2014 (THURSDAY) >> *Next Meeting SEPT 18th*

Time: Social Half-Hour: **11:00 AM - 11:30 AM** > **MEETING START TIME 11:30 AM** - Speaker Immediately Following Lunch

** **PETITE AUBERGE 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: Dave Smith

Subject: "*Honor Flight Georgia-Transporting Our Heroes To DC*"

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**

((Meeting Attendance For The MAY 15th Meeting: ±99))

Speaker for JUNE 19th, 2014– Dave Smith (To Be Introduced By Dep. Cdr. Marilyn Pahr)

The 280th meeting of the *Atlanta WW II Round Table* will feature Dave Smith as our speaker. Dave is the Georgia Program Leader of *Honor Flight Georgia* and will be giving a presentation to the Round Table members, which will include a Power Point history and short video of the *Honor Flight Organization*.

The *Honor Flight Network* is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. They transport our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at **their** memorials. Top priority is given to the senior veterans – World War II survivors, along with those other veterans who may be terminally ill.

Smith will highlight that of all of the wars in recent memory, it was World War II that truly threatened our very existence as a nation—and as a culturally diverse, free society. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, an estimated 640 WWII veterans die each day. Our time to express our thanks to these brave men and women is running out.

Mr. Smith will also update the attendees about the future planning of the *Honor Flight Organization* as well as how the Organization is changing to accommodate more Korean and Vietnam veterans.

Please welcome David Smith as our JUNE 19th, 2014 speaker (280th Meeting.)

Review Of MAY 15th, 2014 Speaker-Bruce Gamble (Introduced by Dep. Cdr. Marilyn Pahr)

Renowned author Bruce Gamble came back to the Round Table for his second presentation on May 15th. Many of you will recall Gamble spoke to us in April 2013 about *Fortress Rabaul; The battle For The Southwest Pacific: January 1942-April 1943*, his second book in what was to become The Rabaul Trilogy. This time Bruce gave us details about the third book in The Rabaul Trilogy, *Target Rabaul: The Allied Siege Of Japan's Most Infamous Stronghold – March 1943 – August 1945*.

Bruce continued his theme of Rabaul, opened in his first book of the Trilogy, *Darkest Hour: The True Story of Lark Force at Rabaul*, (later changed to *Invasion Rabaul: The Epic Story of Lark Force, The Forgotten Garrison, January – July 1942*) which chronicled the longest battle of WW II. *Target Rabaul* continues the saga, moving forward with the Japanese occupation in January 1942 and the almost immediate start of the Allied counter air-offensives against Rabaul, which sprung from *The Bougainville Campaign (Operation Cherry Blossom)* to regain control of the Island of Bougainville so the Allies could conduct air attacks at-will on Rabaul, New Guinea, New Ireland and other Japanese strategic strongholds.

Gamble set the stage magnificently, with a informative description of the geography, volcanic origin and development level of Rabaul at the time of the Japanese occupation. Rabaul is a port on the magnificent natural anchorage of Simpson Harbor, located on Gazelle Peninsula on the northeastern tip of New Britain. Geologically, Rabaul is a sunken *caldera* about eight miles long and six miles wide. The Japanese recognized the value of the port in their planning

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for the *Centrifugal Offensive*, and final plans for its seizure were formulated on 3 January 1942. After its capture, the Japanese subsequently developed Rabaul into their most important base in the South Pacific. Gamble expressed regret that the Allies did too little, too late in their attempts to prepare for the Japanese invasion and their futile attempts to repel the powerful Japanese carrier strikes; resulting in permitting the Japanese massive construction efforts at Rabaul that consequently made it the famous Fortress Port of the *Solomon's Campaign*.

By early 1944, Rabaul had been effectively neutralized by heavy allied bombardments initiated from Bougainville, with over fifty ships and planes sent to the bottom of Simpson Harbor. Because it no longer posed a threat and because of the extreme difficulty in capturing it, the Americans decided to bypass Rabaul entirely. Although the Allies abandoned Rabaul as an objective, the Japanese continued to maintain their defenses of this bastion, thereby wasting much in terms of men and material. Meanwhile, the Americans used their experience of neutralizing Rabaul as the basis of their "*Leapfrog*" *Tactics* in the Pacific.

Thank you Bruce Gamble for your outstanding presentation on "*Target: Rabaul*", for your devotion to writing about WW II in the Pacific, for preserving history, and for a job well done.



I am pleased to announce that we have five (5) new members who have joined us since the May 15th Meeting:

Veteran Kenneth (Ken) A. Warford – Ken served in Vietnam as a Chaplain. He retired from the USAF as a Lt. Colonel.

Veteran Lloyd P. Thompson – Lloyd served in the USAF during the Vietnam War.

Veteran Richard (Dick) A. Hyde – Dick served in the USAR 1962-1968, he is a retired Attorney.

Veteran Paul H. Gibbs – Paul served for 3-years in the US Army Reserves.

Veteran Frank H. Ruhmann – Frank served for 28 years USAR 1961-1989 and 3 years active as R&D Ord. Officer at Frankford Arsenal. Frank Served in all Logistics Positions to DCSLOG 79th Army Cmd. and retired as a LTC.

Please welcome Ken, Lloyd, Dick, Paul and Frank as our newest members at the JUNE 19th, 2014 meeting.



SPECIAL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/OF SPECIAL INTEREST& UPCOMING EVENTS

>>> **(UPDATED) ALL FUTURE MEETINGS** – Effective immediately the side-door entry to the Petite Au Berge Restaurant will be inaccessible as a entry door. Because of Fire-Marshall regulations, the door will always remain available as a exit-door when you are in the Restaurant. Members, guests, and visitors are requested to only use the front-door entrance. The front door to the Petite is handicap and wheelchair friendly and will save our members some steps as well.

>>> **(NEW) – JUNE 19th – Election of Officers for the 2014-2015 Campaign** – Elections will take place at the June 19th meeting for Officers to serve during the 2014-2015 Campaign. Nominees were announced at the May meeting by the Nominating Committee. Nominated Officers are: Commander-Lee Weinstein; Deputy Commander-Marilyn Pahr; Adjutant-John Kovach; Finance Officer-Jay Lenny; Deputy Finance Officer-Guy Condra; Captain Sergeant-At-Arms-Bob Rivers; Sergeant-At-Arms Joe Jordan and Bill Shepherd; Senior Chaplain-Carl Espy; Asst. Chaplain-Elaine Rivers; Chaplain Emeritus- General Harold Dye.

>>> **(FINAL) – JULY 31st – AUGUST 3rd, 2014 (THURSDAY-SUNDAY) - The 12th Armored Division Association of WW II** veterans and families will conduct their 68th reunion/convention in Atlanta GA this July 31-August 3rd.2014.The host hotel will be the Westin /Airport. History exhibits staffed by 12th museum historians will include books and shirts. For more information contact Allan Dear dear5@earthlink.net or call 229 630 5682. For information about the museum in Abilene, Texas or the association www.12tharmoredmuseum.com

>>> **(UPDATED) UPCOMING SPEAKERS for – JUNE 2014 & SEPT. – DEC. 2014** - New Program chairman Peter (Pete) Mecca, Jr. will be taking the baton from Larry Robert and serving as the Round Table Program Chairman for our 2014-2015 Campaign. Larry Robert's service was exemplary and provided the Round Table with several new and memorable speakers. Larry has accepted new responsibilities with his employer and will be traveling more then usual, but will still be able to attend most of the meetings. Thank-You Larry for the wonderful legacy of speakers you provided us.

Pete comes to us as with a background as a reporter for the AJC; he is a veteran as well and has lined-up some impressive speakers starting in on September 18th. He has done a splendid job in lining up a wonderful list of speakers for the Atlanta WW II Round Table for our September through December 2014 meetings; Our final speaker for the September 2013-June 2014 Campaign will be none other then - **Dave Smith – For the JUNE 19th Meeting (Chairman of Honor Flights Georgia.)**

Pete has lined-up the following speakers for September-December 2014: Sept. 18th - Jack Simpson (WWII Anzio Beach veteran); Oct. 16th – (Former Green Beret/28 Years Service); Nov. 20th – Carol Cain (Known Statewide as Rosie-The-Riveter); Dec. 18th – Joe Kirby (Award winning Author-Books On The Lockheed Plant during WW II). Please note that the speaker's engagements are subject to change. Thank you again Larry Robert for the outstanding job you did for the Round Table; Thank-You Pete for taking on this very difficult endeavor and for your continuing efforts to seek-out and engage excellent speakers for our meetings.

Should any member have a suggestion or lead for Pete relative to a qualified Speaker, please contact him 770-354-9697 or via email at aveteransstory@gmail.com.



MONTHLY QUOTE:

Few Americans are well-acquainted with the gallantry and heroic exploits of Philadelphia's Irish-born naval commander, Commodore John Barry. Obscured by his contemporary, naval commander John Paul Jones, Barry remains to this day an unsung hero of the young American Republic. As most naval historians note, Barry can be classed on a par with Jones for nautical skill and daring, but he exceeds him in the length of service (17 years) to his adopted country and his fidelity to the nurturing of a permanent American Navy. Indeed, Barry deserves the proud epithet, "Father of the American Navy," a title bestowed on him not by current generations of admirers, but by his contemporaries, who were in the best position to judge.

Commodore Barry (1745-1803)

"Father of the American Navy"

by John Barry Kelly

Atlanta WW II Round Table Members – Please remember that there will be NO scheduled meetings of the Round Table in July or August. Our next scheduled meeting will be on September 18th (Thursday), 2014 – at the Petite Au Berge – Meeting start time 11:30 AM