



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 28 No. 7

277th MEETING

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Date: MARCH 20th, 2014 (THURSDAY) >> *Next Meeting APRIL 17th*

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: Professor Herbert W. Benario

Subject: "*Ardeatine Caves Atrocity-The Most Brutal Act During The German Occupation Of Italy-March 1944*"

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 February 15th Banquet: 178))

Speaker for MARCH 20th, 2014– Herbert W. Benario (To Be Introduced By Dep. Cdr. Marilyn Pahr)

The March 20th speaker for the Atlanta WW II Round Table will be Professor Emeritus Herbert W. Benario. The Professor has spoken to the Round Table on two occasions prior to this engagement. His December 17th, 2009 talk was about "Some Classicists In WW II Intelligence Work" and his May 17th, 2012 presentation focused on "General Sir John Hackett – Soldier and Academic"

Herbert's March 20th presentation will be about a little known, but highly significant atrocity that the Germans committed against their former ally and Axis Power member, Italy. The event became known as the *Ardeatine Caves Massacre*, where the Germans, after a column of German Police, the SS Police Regiment Bozen, were ambushed by members of the Roman resistance on the Via Raselia in central Rome on March 23rd, 1944, swiftly exacted revenge on the Italians and slaughtered 335 men and boys at the Ardeatine Caves just outside of the City walls of Rome the very next day March 24th.

The atrocity and slaughter shocked the Italians, including the Papacy. Unbeknownst to them, the German High-Command had ordered the massacre take place the next day after the attack, and that 10 Italians would be killed for every German killed in the attack; the partisans killed 33 S.S. Policemen & some innocent civilians, but the Germans retaliated by murdering 335 Italian prisoners, five more than they originally intended. The victims comprised "rich, and poor, doctors and lawyers, workers and shopkeepers, artists and artisans, teachers and students, men and teenaged boys from every walk of life, and even a man of God to walk among them. Political prisoners were also among those murdered.

After WW II, The Ardeatine Caves was declared a National Cemetery and National Monument by the Italian Government and is now open to the public daily. Three Catholic Popes have visited the site as well condemning the 1944 attack, although some critical of the Church claim that the *Vatican*, including *Pope Pius XII*, may have had advance knowledge of the Nazi orders but did little to forestall the German revenge. Herbert will fill in all the details of this tragedy for us at the March meeting.

Many of you know Professor Benario. He is married to long-time Round Table member Dr. Janice Benario. He is an academic and Professor Emeritus at Emory University in Atlanta. He earned his BA from City College of New York, a MA from Columbia University in 1949 and his Ph.D. from John Hopkins University in 1951. He is past president of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South and author of several books including *An Introduction To Tacitus*, published in 1975. His most recent books are *Julius Caesar's Gallic War* published in March, 2012 and *The Romans & Germans*, Published in August 2012.

Please welcome Professor Emeritus of Classics, Herbert W. Benario as our MARCH 20th, 2014 speaker (277th Meeting.)

Review Of FEBRUARY 15th, 2014 Speaker-Jonathan W. Jordan (Introduced by Dep. Cdr. Marilyn Pahr)

A wonderful time was had by all at the annual February Banquet, Saturday February 15th. The Petite served 178 people, with great food, Jill and the Stuart Mcgee Trio sang and played wonderful music; Kay Secrist had the tables decorated with Red Roses and candy, and most importantly, our speaker, renowned author Jonathan Jordan gave us a look inside his newest book,

"AMERICAN WARLORDS: How FDR's High-Command Led America to Victory". CONTINUED ON BACK

Jonathan does such thorough research that he could have talked easily for 2 hours about this book, but in his shortened version for the Round Table he provided us with excellent details on the Officers in high-command who made the decisions which led to victory in Europe and the Pacific in WW II. One point Jonathan made was that leaders like President Roosevelt and Chief of Staff General George Marshall were brilliant and enlightened in appointing men and women to High-Command who could make decisions crucial for victory. The selection of leaders such as Dwight Eisenhower, Patton, Bradley, MacArthur, Stillwell, Nimitz, King, Halsey, Arnold, Spaatz, Doolittle and Curtis Lemay was, to a degree possible, due to timing, chance, luck, divine intervention and the personal relationships these leaders had leading up to and during the war.

Thank you Jonathan for a thought-provoking presentation, for your devotion to research and writing about WW II, and for a job well done.

I am pleased to announce that we have three (4) new members who have joined us since the January 16th & February 15th Meetings

WW II Veteran William (Bill) P. Montgomery – Bill served with the 26th Marines, 5th Division in the Pacific. After Boot Camp in San Diego, he was sent to Sniper School. He landed on Iwo Jima on Feb. 2nd, 1945 and served 5 months during the occupation of Japan.

Veteran Jerry Kreske – Jerry was commissioned / Naval Pre-Flight School / Ship Duty Gunnery Officer and Naval Fire Liaison in the 5th Marine Division. He is a Commissioned Officer in the Naval Reserves achieving the rank of LCDR.

Veteran Harry M. John – Harry was a USAF Flight Surgeon during the Vietnam War serving in Da Nang 1967-1968.

C. Scott Akers, Jr. – Scott is retired and is interested in all aspects of WW II history.

Please welcome Bill, Jerry, John and Scott as our newest members at the MARCH 20th, 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 kept locked. Members, guests, and visitors must now use the front-door entrance. The front door to the Petite is handicap and wheelchair friendly and will save our members some steps.

>>> **(NEW) - APRIL 2-5, 2014 (WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY) – 37th Airborne Annual Awards Festival** – All Round Table members are invited to attend the entire weeks festivities, but the emphasis is on the Awards Banquet on the evening of April 5th, (SATURDAY) at the Airport Marriott Hotel, 4711 Best Rd., College Park, GA (self-parking is free.) This is a annual event honoring Troopers Of The Year from various Airborne Associations from WW II to present. All supporters are welcome, whether you served on Airborne status of not. The theme of this year's Festival will be the 70th Anniversary of D-Day. The Guest of Honor and Awards Banquet Guest Speaker will be Lt. General (Ret.) John M. LeMoyne, a decorated Viet Nam veteran and a Company, Battalion and Brigade-level Commander. Note that entertainment will be by The 18-member Sentimental Journey Orchestra during the Awards Banquet. Reservations are required and you can download a reservation form at www.82nd-atl.com.

>>> **(NEW) - APRIL 2nd, 2014 (WEDNESDAY) - The Roswell Rotary Club** is announcing the 6th Honor Air Trip to Washington, DC for April 2nd, 2014. This round-trip flight is free to WW II veterans. Each veteran will be accompanied by his or her own personal guardian. Those interested can obtain an application from the Roswell Rotary Club's Website at www.roswellrotary.com. You can also contact Pat DiGeorge via email at pdigeorge@gmail.com. Please note that Korean War veterans may also apply for the trip; WW II veterans will be given first choice. Personal Guardians are also welcome to apply but must pay their own way (\$ 350.00); applications for Personal Guardians will be accepted on a as-needed basis.

>>> **(NEW) APRIL 26-27, 2014 (SATURDAY-SUNDAY) – Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Dixie Wing – The 11th Annual WW II Heritage Days** event will take place this year on April 26-27th (Saturday-Sunday) at the Atlanta Regional Airport (Falcon Field) , 1200 Echo Court, Peachtree City, GA. The event is hosted by over 250 volunteers and attended by +2500 people. Tables are available at no cost to non-profits.

The CAF is also seeking your assistance in inviting WWII veterans and all Women of the Greatest Generation to attend the Opening Ceremony on Sat, April 26 at 1000. Additional details regarding the opening ceremony will be forthcoming. To register or for more info, visit www.wwiidays.org. You can also contact Chris Madrid, the Public Information Officer for the Dixie Wing at 770-655-3315.

>>> **(NEW) MAY 25th, 2014 (SUNDAY) – Concourse Athletic Club – Memorial-Day Celebration “MEET THE VETERANS - HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED** - On Sunday, 25 May 2014, from the hours of 1 to 5 PM, the members of the Atlanta World War II Round Table, in cooperation with various veterans groups and supporters of the military, plan to commemorate Memorial Day at the Concourse Athletic Club in Atlanta. Time is running short to be able to be able to exhibit at the event and any veteran of any war or conflict who would like to have a FREE table for the public to meet him or her needs to contact Commander Weinstein at 404-843-0779 or Finance Officer Lenny at 770-638-7824 asap. Commander Weinstein also would like veterans of Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan to attend to help *man-the-tables* and provide fatigue-relief when needed.

>>> **(NEW) – 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 - 2014** 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 September through December 2013 meetings. The following speakers will be making a presentation to the Round Table in: January-June 2014: **March 2014 – Herbert W. Benario (Intelligence Officer)** - April 2014 – Seymour (Sy) Goodman (U.S. Army); May 2014 – Bruce Gamble (Author of “*Target: Rabaul*”); June 2014 – Dave Smith (Chairman of *Honor Flights Conyers*, GA.) 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.

Monthly Quote:

First Four (4) Laws of Psychological Time; 1.) Time Speeds Up As We Get Older; 2.) Time Slows Down When We Are Exposed To New Experiences And Environments; 3.) Time Passes Quickly In States Of Total-Focus And Total-Concentration; 4.) Time Passes Slowly In States Of Non-Focus And Non-Concentration. / Psychologist Max Wertheimer Ph.D.