



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

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

VOL. 29 No. 1

281st MEETING

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Contributor(s) To This
Newsletter

* Jack Simpson

* Dave Smith

* Lee Weinstein / Marilyn Pahr

* Pete Mecca / Carl Espy

* Bob Rivers / Carl Beck

Elected Officers 2014-2015

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Sgt.-at-Arms - Bill Shepherd

Sgt.-at-Arms – Joe Jordan

Sgt.-at-Arms – Mike Koesters

Sr. Chaplain – Carl Espy

Tel: 770-698-0027

Chaplain Emeritus – B.G. Harold A. Dye

Asst. Chaplain – Elaine Rivers

Date: SEPTEMBER 18th, 2014 (THURSDAY) >> *Next Meeting OCT. 16th*

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: Jack Simpson

Subject: "Amphibious Landing At Anzio Beach-January 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 JUNE 19th Meeting: ± 105))

Speaker for SEPT. 18th, 2014– Jack Simpson (To Be Introduced By Dep. Cdr. Marilyn Pahr)

The 281st meeting of the *Atlanta WW II Round Table* will feature Jack Simpson as our speaker. Jack is a WW II combat veteran who fought with the 45th Infantry Division at Anzio Beach, Italy and later taking part in the invasion of Southern France and Germany. Simpson was part of a 105mm tracked howitzer crew.

The 45th Infantry Division along with other elements of the U.S. 5th swarmed ashore on a fifteen-mile stretch of Italian beach near the prewar resort towns of Anzio and Nettuno in January 1944. Commanded by General Troy Middleton and under the overall command of General John P. Lucas, the 45th got ashore under constant bombing, shelling and small-arms fire; walking and constantly digging foxholes as they advanced slowly forward while fighting alongside U.S. Ranger troops from the Third Division and some British forces.

At the time of the Anzio invasion, Simpson was just a boy from the Pennsylvania coalmines who found himself slap-in-the-middle of a war he didn't fully understand. From January – June 1944 the 45th had what Simpson called a 'tenuous' foothold on the beach at Anzio. He called it a place of pain, sorrow, death, destruction and eventually scattered crosses. The invasion of Anzio took a heavy toll on the Allies; Simpson saw many of the 7000 of his fellow soldiers left behind in the cemeteries of there. To those brave soldiers he had to leave behind, he would remember telling them to 'sleep-on' as he departed to carry on the fighting. He realized all those who sacrificed their lives helped keep the world safe for democracy.

Simpson became a FBI Special Agent after the war, serving the FBI for 23 years. He is a author and continues to work as a Deputy Sheriff and Bailiff in Rockdale and Newton Counties.

Please welcome Jack Simpson as our SEPTEMBER 18th, 2014 speaker (281st Meeting.)

Review Of JUNE 19th, 2014 Speaker-Dave Smith (Introduced by Dep. Cdr. Marilyn Pahr)

Our last meeting of our 2013-2014 campaign featured Dave Smith as our speaker. Dave is the Georgia Program Leader of *Honor Flight Georgia* and gave a wonderful presentation and update to the Round Table members, as well as a short video and Power-Point history 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.

Dave reminded us 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. Dave said the *Honor Flight Organization* honors these brave men

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and women and has long-range plans to continue the flights honoring Korean and Vietnam veterans.

Thank-You Dave Smith for a wonderful and informative presentation and for a job well done.

I am pleased to announce that we have four (4) new members who have joined us since the June 19th Meeting:

WW II Veteran James (Jim) M. Tucker, Jr. – Jim served in the 183rd Bomb Disposal Squad – 8th Army / Asian-Pacific Theatre - American Division, Calvary & 24th Infantry. He was honorably discharged in Sept. 1946.

Veteran Bob Babcock – Bob served in Vietnam as a Platoon Leader and XO of B/I-22/N, 4th Infantry Division. He is currently the President and Historian of the National 4th Infantry Division Association.

Cynthia (Cyndi) Todd-Harper – Cyndi is a published author, most recently of former Round Table member Lew Fern. She is also a veteran TV Producer.

Shirley Smelter Espy – Shirley is the wife of our Senior Chaplain Carl Espy. She has a great interest in WW II, including D-Day, Normandy and The Battle of the Bulge.

Please welcome Jim, Bob, Cyndi and Shirley as our newest members at the SEPT. 18th, 2014 meeting.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT FOR ELECTED OFFICERS & STAFF

Elected Officers and Staff should plan to attend a staff meeting immediately following the regular meeting on Sept. 18 to discuss a few items including a \$525.00 appropriation to send seven (7) Round Table WW II Veterans to the Veterans Day Dinner on November 11th at \$75.00 per person. Also discussed will be a proposed Amendment to the Round Table Constitution / By-Laws relative to Co-Commandership as well as the problem of recording our present and future speakers, estimated cost of upgrading our Sound System and Corporate/Individual sponsorship of these costs. These are all items for discussion.

SPECIAL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/OF SPECIAL INTEREST& UPCOMING EVENTS

>>> **(NEW) DEPUTY COMMANDER MARILYN PAHR** – It is with great sadness that we learned at the Executive Board Meeting in August that Deputy Commander Marilyn Pahr will be retiring and moving to California in November-December 2014. As most of you know, Marilyn has served the Round Table with distinction since joining the organization in September 2005; she has used her many skills over the years to serve as our Historian, developed and maintained our Lending Library, initiated and maintained the Membership Picture and Biography Directory and has been instrumental in helping our Program Chairman and Videographer Ted Murphy make our meeting run smoothly by administering and managing the visual presentations made by our speakers. I need not tell you, she will be terribly missed by the Round Table.

>>> **(NEW) ALL FUTURE MEETINGS** – Senior Chaplain Carl Espy requested at the Executive Board Meeting in August to inform the membership that his door is always open to all members, at any time, to be updated on any member who is ill, infirmed at home, hospitalized or unable to attend regular meetings due to health issues. Chaplin Espy would like to be informed of the member's name and address and telephone number and he will attempt to keep in-touch with the families of seriously ill members. Carl can be reached at 770-698-0027 or via email at cespyjr@comcast.net.

>>> **(NEW) REQUEST FOR OLD WW II MAGAZINES** – Members are asked to bring in old WW II Magazines to share with members. These can be left with the Sergeant-At-Arms or placed on a open table to be taken on a first-come first-serve basis.

>>> **(NEW) WW II 8TH AIR FORCE CALENDARS / SPECIAL ARTIST-RENDITION OF ALL WW II LEADERS** Hap Chandler will be bringing more of *the 8th Air Force 2014 Calendars* to the September 18th meeting if you haven't purchased one yet; cost is \$ 25.00. The funds for the Calendars go to the *Mighty 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah*. Pete Mecca will be bringing Portrait Artist Jeff Coker to the Sept. 18th meeting. Jeff is a gifted artist who will be bringing some unique examples of his black and white portraits of the entire World War II General Command Staff, as well as the Confederate Generals and all the Union Generals together. Jeff suffers from Cancer and does these Portraits in only a # 2 Pencil. You must see them to appreciate how unique they are. They will be offered in a small size for \$35 and a larger framed version for \$ 135 (may be negotiable.) Please see Hap and Jeff at the Sept. meeting to purchase either or both of these items.

>>> **(NEW) SEPTEMBER 20th (SATURDAY) – REPLUBLIC OF CHINA VETERANS' MEMORIAL CEREMONY** – Round Table Members are invited to attend the Republic of China Veterans' Memorial Ceremony at 5:00 PM Saturday, September 20th at the *Chinese Community Center, 5377 New Peachtree Rd., Chamblee, GA 30341 (in back of China Town)*. The ceremony will begin at 6:00 PM, guests will be invited to speak, followed by dinner, entertainment and prize drawings. Please RSVP to the Veterans Association in Tucker by calling them at 770-921-5738. Directions are available by calling 770-921-5738 or 770-451-4456.

>>> **(UPDATED) UPCOMING SPEAKERS for – 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. **Sept. 18th - Jack Simpson (WWII Anzio Beach combat 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:

“The desire for Rome, balked by successful German opposition in the intervening mountainous ground in southern Italy, led directly to the amphibious landing at Anzio. Even before the invasion of Italy, Allied leaders had recognized the difficulties of making swift overland advance in the troubled terrain south of Rome. Lacking numerically superior forces, constricted by the width of the Italian peninsula to a relatively short front, and limited by the mountains to well-defined corridors of advance, the Allied ground forces were restricted to frontal attack. Maneuver was possible only by means of sea-borne hooks-the Allies could envelop the enemy positions only by amphibious end runs.”

General Lucas at Anzio

by Martin Blumenson