



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

September - November 2024 Newsletter

www.WWIIroundtable.com

Happy end of Summer and early Fall! Wow! Had a great year full of varied and intriguing speakers/topics. One speaker even drove all the way from Salt Lake City, Utah, to tell his story! Why do we do what we do...because YOU and WE have a thirst for knowledge about WWII/that era and conflicts from WWI through present day. To continue this great tradition (since 1987) it takes ALL of US to contribute. I mean belong/pay your dues/make donations of money and books for our drawing (or interesting militaria)/RSVP your dinner/come to the dinner meetings/invite and bring guests/volunteer to help/suggest topics or speakers/present yourself! All of US make this organization thrive and need more members to do so...if you enjoy the Roundtable, spread the word and personally RSVP and bring folks. I hear from persons across the US and Canada who are envious of our Roundtable and the stories we get to enjoy each month (except December). I hope and pray that YOU will have a great rest of this year and will be able to attend EVERY dinner meeting.



Charles A. Holt, D.O.

Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Social!

7:15 Featured Program

WHERE HISTORY AND
HEROES MEET



WWII HISTORY &
WARTIME STORIES
for Everyone!



Ernie Pyle
WWII Pulitzer Prize Reporter

MONTHLY DINNER PROGRAMS

Live Guest Speakers
Northside Events & Social Club
(formerly "Knights of Columbus")
2100 E 71st Street,
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Doors open - 5 PM
\$11 Buffet Dinner - 6 PM (RSVP)
Program - 7 PM

WWIIROUNDTABLE.COM

Programs: Sept 23rd, Oct 28th, & Nov 25th, 2024



John Shively

B-29 & Operation Matterhorn
The Strategic Bombing
of Japan



Charles Braun

Germany's National Social-
ists Take over of German
Society



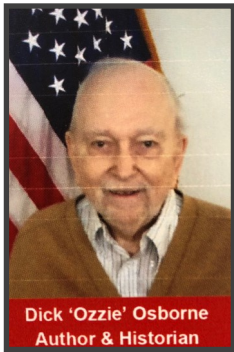
Congressman

Jim Baird
His Vietnam Experiences

Roundtable Board

Charles A. Holt, President
Kathryn Lerch, Vice President
Treasurer, Andy Fulks
Asst Treas., Richard Eisgruber
Meeting Arrangements: Karl &
Jan Kleinbub
At Large: Brad Damon, Travis
Petrie, Marlene Mendonsa, &
Steve Hogan
Web/Audio/Visual:
Travis Petrie & Steve Hogan

Regular Monthly Dinner \$11++ Join us in person if you are able! Be sure to send your monthly dinner RSVPs to Karl Kleinbub: knj1002@mylinestar.net or phone 317- 607- 6948 **no later than Thursday prior to Monday's program!** (Do not rsvp via the website!) A head count for Northside Events & Social Club (K of C) is very important. Also, please have CASH in exact change \$11 ++ tip for your meal. We encourage you to invite a guest! Thank you!



WW 2 Trivia for September - November 2024

Inspired by Ozzie's earlier trivia reports . . .

Eighty Years ago! . . . in September - November 1944

See source: <https://onwar.com/wwii/chronology/194407.html>

- ◆ **Friday, September 1, 1944:** *On the Western Front...* General Eisenhower establishes his headquarters in France as Commander in Chief of the Allied Expeditionary Forces. *In Southern France...* French forces of US 7th Army capture Narbonne and St. Agreve.
- ◆ **Saturday, September 9, 1944:** *In Southern France...* Beaune, Le Cresot and Autun are all captured by French elements of US 7th Army. [see photos right side]
- ◆ **Sept. 30, 1944:** German troops surrender at Calais, France.
- ◆ **October 14, 1944:** *In Germany...* Field Marshal Rommel is visited at home by Nazi government representatives. He is suspected of complicity in the July 20th plot to assassinate Hitler. Rommel is given a choice of a public trial or suicide with a state funeral and a guarantee of immunity from persecution for his wife and family. He chooses to commit suicide. His death is publicly announced as resulting from wounds.
- ◆ **October 19, 1944:** *On the Western Front...* American attacks on Aachen continue. Farther south, forces of the US 7th Army capture Bruyère's. Nearby, other units prepare to assault St. Die.
- ◆ **October 31, 1944:** *In Greece...* German forces withdraw from Salonika. Remaining German island garrisons are now trapped. During recent weeks, numerous German troops on the islands in the Aegean have been removed by small vessels, despite Allied patrols..
- ◆ **November 7, 1944:** Franklin D. Roosevelt elected to a fourth term as president.
- ◆ **November 12, 1944:** *Tirpitz* sunk by British Bomber Command
- ◆ **November 23, 1944:** U.S. troops liberated the Natzweiler-Struthof concentration camp in France [photos on right taken Aug. 23, 2024]

Operation DRAGOON Tour Aug. 11-25

AUTUN, FRANCE Aug. 19, 2024

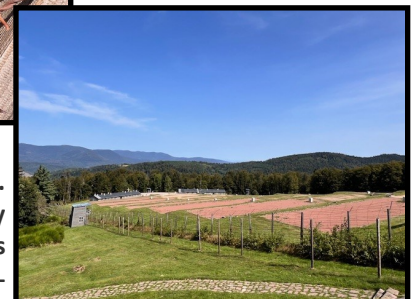


Autun was liberated Sept. 9, 1944 when American & French forces shook hands in front of City Hall (above). WWII RT members Marlene & David Mendonsa and Kathryn Lerch were participants on this tour. Two months later . . .

Natzweiler-Struthof Camp in France



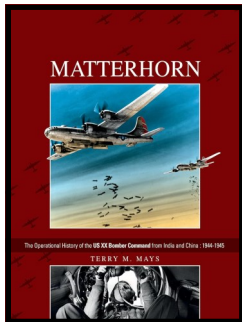
SS German Labor camp was designed as a 'Nacht & Nebel' site where prisoners—typically in the resistance would disappear and never be seen again. One such individual was Sverre



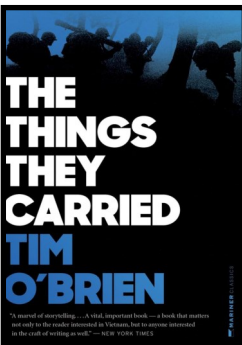
Landøy of Norway. He miraculously survived and was liberated in November 1944 and returned to Norway.

As a courtesy to others, remember with rising number of viruses or flu-bugs, please Do Not attend the dinner if you are ill, or possibly becoming ill, as you may be contagious to others. *Same time, same place, great speakers and remember to invite a guest!*

Book Recommendations for October 2024 —January 2025

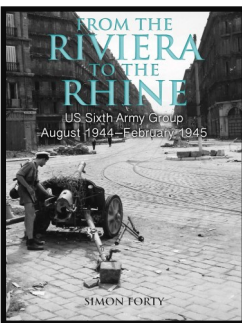


Matterhorn: The Operational History of the US XX Bomber Command from India & China 1944-1945 by Terry M. Mays This operational history of the XX (20th) Bomber Command and its combat missions from India and China in 1944 and 1945 traces the development of the Boeing B-29 Superfortress program and the Allied plans to stage long-range bombers through China for strikes against Japan’s strategic industries. This book will prepare you for John Shively’s October presentation.



The Things They Carried by Tim O’Brien is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. A classic work of American literature that has not stopped changing minds and lives since it burst onto the literary scene, *The Things They Carried* is a ground-breaking meditation on war, memory, imagination, and the redemptive power of storytelling. *The Things They Carried* depicts the men of Alpha Company

You may wish to read or re-read this classic before Congressman Jim Baird speaks to our Roundtable in November about his Vietnam War experiences!



In January, Kathryn Lerch & Marlene Mendonsa will share their experiences on their Operation Dragoon tour which occurred on the 80th anniversary of the invasion of Southern France.

From the Riviera to the Rhine by Simon Forty covers the movement of the US Sixth Army group up from southern France along the Rhone River Valley to Alsace. It is well illustrated and contains maps as well as extensive commentary for land and air components. This was very useful prior to participating in the 80th Anniversary of Operation Dragoon. **Marlene Mendonsa and Kathryn Lerch will present a program in January** about this tour—where most days were in the 90s! We will be wishing for warmer temperatures in January for sure.

REMINDER: Discounted “Early Bird” Annual Dues Accepted now for 2025

Veterans \$18.00; Non-Veterans \$20.00. After Jan 1, 2025 regular dues rise to \$20 and \$25 respectively.

WWII Veterans/widows FREE Membership

Please mail your check to: WW II Roundtable 917 E. Walnut St, Lebanon IN 46052 or Pay at the dinner

Name: _____ Phone: _____

EMAIL: _____ Address: _____

WW2 Veteran? _____ Post-WW2 Veteran? _____ If yes, branch & period of service _____

Once you have attended at least two of our monthly programs, the board expects that you will commit to being a member of our organization. Your dues are essential to help support our programs, speakers, and purchasing challenge coins for veterans. The \$11 cost of dinner only covers the expense of food and service for the North Side Social venue. Please be a Round Table supporter! This is tax-deductible. If dues remain unpaid after two meetings, your name will be removed from our mailing list.

Thank you for supporting the WW2 Roundtable!