



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

June-July 2025 Newsletter

www.WWIIroundtable.com

Greetings!

Well, Summer finally arrived! Hoping you are enjoying the changing of the season with flowers/trees with leaves and grass to mow every week! I hope you have enjoyed our presentations as much as I this year...I've learned a lot of new things. We continue to have visitors and new members...YOU are the most important item, with your memberships/attendance/purchasing the buffet dinner (how we get the room for free!!!!) by inviting and bringing guests. With less than 5% of Americans ever serving in the military, the up-and-coming generation may not even know about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, let alone Vietnam/Korea/World Wars II & I...OMG! Remember the old saw: Those Who Don't Learn And Remember History Are Bound To Repeat It! Just go to the frequent Indianapolis Public Library book sale...most of the military history books have been removed from school libraries...OMG!

Charles A. Holt, D.O.

Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Social! 7:00: Trivia Presentation 7:15 Featured Program

Programs June 23 and July 28, 2025

Discussion with
Vietnam War Veterans



June 23, 2025

Linda Minton

Political Prisoner
of the Nazis in WW2



July 28, 2025

Mike Stockman

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

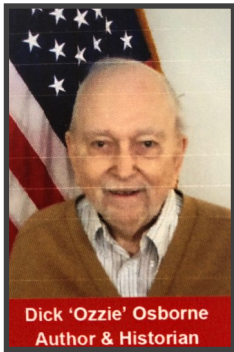
WWWIIROUNDTABLE.COM

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, & John Chalfin
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 June through July 2025

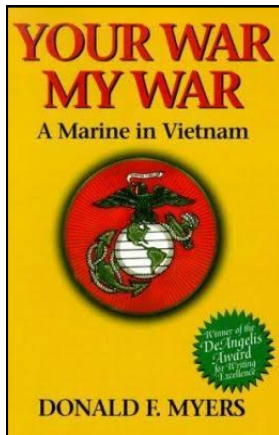
Inspired by Ozzie's earlier trivia reports Do you remember or have you read about these events?

- ◆ **End of the Battle of Okinawa:** The battle concluded on June 22nd, with the US occupying the island.
- ◆ **Operation Downfall:** President Truman approved the planned invasion of Japan, known as *Operation Downfall*.
- ◆ **Capture of Manila:** US forces captured Manila from the Japanese Imperial Army. Dewey Blvd (now Roxas) runs along Manila Bay. US Embassy is to left, closer to the bay. The rubble was cleared to right of the boulevard and a park established.

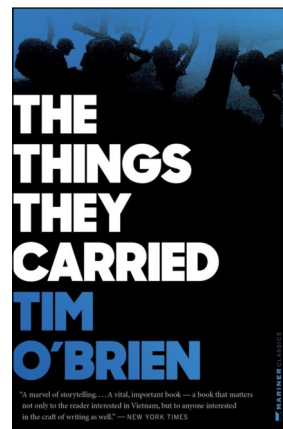
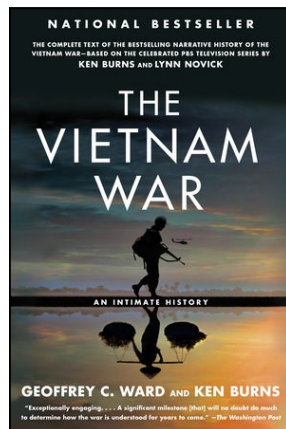


- ◆ A large percentage of Manila, formerly called the "Pearl of the Orient" was in ruin. The famous Manila Hotel, where Douglas MacArthur's family lived prior to the outbreak of WW2 was also heavily damaged. Manila Bay was still littered with destroyed landing craft in 1952-53. [Ed.: Our newly built house was in a compound next to bombed-out apartment buildings, yet we enjoyed our view across the bay to Corregidor, with beautiful sunsets every night. Bullet holes were still present in walls of the Manila Hotel's guest rooms.] This video clip shows the destruction of Manila in 1945: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gGCKrvtpSg> I recommend: James Scott, *Rampage: MacArthur, Yamashita, and The Battle of Manila* (2019) or Richard Connaughton's *Battle for Manila* (1997)
- ◆ **WWII Casualties and Prisoners:** The New York Times reported on June 21st that 87,343 Japanese were killed and 2,565 were captured on Okinawa.
- ◆ **Strategic Withdrawals:** In early 1945 the Japanese began to remove distant garrisons in the South-West Pacific to reduce the defense perimeter to the Celebes, Borneo, Java, Sumatra and hold it for as long as possible, with Indo-China and Malaya in the center of the defensive zone. *Sho* (Akiraka) was the withdrawal of troops from the Andaman and Nicobar islands to Singapore, *Chi* was the transfer of troops from Singapore to Indo-China, Transportation No. 10 was the transfer of the [48th Division](#) from Timor and *Ho* was an evacuation of troops from Borneo and Surabaya that was not undertaken. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Action_of_8_June_1945#Aftermath]
- ◆ **On 8 May 1945,** the Allies celebrated VE Day, marking the end of the war in Europe. But the war in the east still raged on and Japanese surrender seemed a long way off.
- ◆ **War against Japan, 1945:** In South East Asia, by late 1944, British and Commonwealth, US and Chinese forces had begun the reconquest of Burma (Myanmar). The main attack was carried out by the Fourteenth Army, comprising 340,000 Indian troops, 100,000 British and 80,000 African soldiers, which defeated the Japanese defending forces in central Burma. The capital Rangoon was retaken in May 1945.

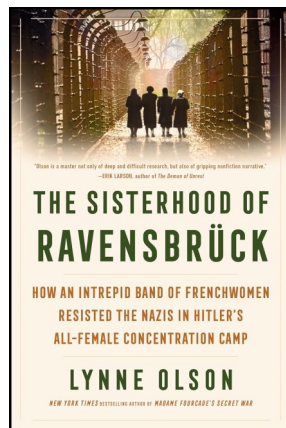
Military History Connections with our Programs. . . Through Books



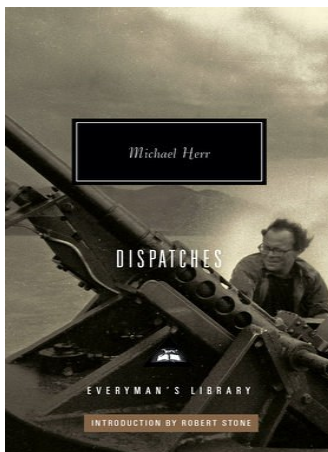
Myers (above) presents short newspaper articles concerning the war in Vietnam along with writings of his memories of sixteen months of an extended Vietnam tour with the Marines.



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



Lynne Olson is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Empress of the Nile*, *Madame Fourcade's Secret War*, *Last Hope Island*, *Those Angry Days*, and *Citizens of London*. She has been a consulting historian for the National WWII Museum in New Orleans and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C. "Lynne Olson reveals this astonishing group of Frenchwomen who found themselves together in Ravensbrück and in that horrible place formed life-lasting, profound friendships."—Gwen Strauss, author of *The Nine: The True Story of a Band of Women Who Survived the Worst of Nazi Germany*



"Originally published in 1977, *Dispatches* remains one of the finest examples of war reportage. In it, war correspondent Michael Herr recounts the fervor and horror of war – as well as the day-to-day lives of soldiers in a combat zone – in unflinching detail through stark, eloquent prose. *Dispatches* was an instant classic and provided inspiration for some of the finest films on the Vietnam War, most notably "Apocalypse Now." Decades later, it remains a must-read." Go to this link for top books on the Vietnam War: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/the-read-down/fractured-identity-best-vietnam-war-books/>

As a courtesy to others, 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!*

Annual Dues for 2025

Veteran Family \$20.00; Non-Veteran Family \$25.00; WWII Veterans/widows FREE Membership

Please mail your check to: WWII 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 _____