



## From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

June 2022 Newsletter [www.WWIIroundtable.com](http://www.WWIIroundtable.com)

Greetings everyone!

Sometimes changes to plans happen and this is the case with our long-planned and anticipated road trip to Evansville, Indiana. Due to both the large expense to hold an event there and to the limited number of members who sent an RSVP, your president and vice-presidents concluded this was not in the best financial interest for our organization. A couple board members will however go to visit and record stories of the veterans we had planned to hear at the museum and share at a later time. . .

*Charles Allen Holt, D.O.*

**June 27, 2022, 7:00 PM In-Person Only**

### Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Social!

7:00 "German Military items" Trivia with Ted Welch

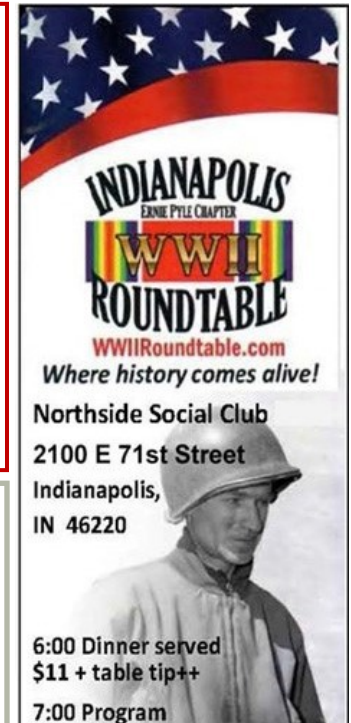
7:15 Program Kathryn Lerch, World War II Round Table board member and Director of Park Tudor School's Legacy Initiative Project, will present a sneak peak of this forthcoming book with an emphasis on "D-Day to Patton's October Pause" *"Dear Stellie" A Field Surgeon's World War II Letters: Pierce W. Powers, 4th Auxiliary Surgical Group*



**Powers's surgical team at unknown location in France 1944**

Beginning with D-Day on June 6, 1944, we'll travel with Powers's surgical team from the beaches of Normandy across the Cotentin Peninsula to Paris and beyond. The Powers Collection consists of more than 250 letters and privately-held photographs—which convey an intimate picture of newly weds during their wartime separation.

Powers met and married his future wife, Estelle Brabant, in Memphis, Tennessee after a whirlwind courtship in January '44. He brought her along in spirit—first to England as he prepared for D-Day, then to France and beyond. He shared his impressions of scenery, people and famous places with her as if she were along for the ride though the end of the war.



### Round Table Board

Chuck Holt, President  
William Ervin, 1st VP  
Kathryn Lerch, 2nd VP  
Treasurer, Lucy Parker  
Asst Treas., Richard Eisgruber  
Meeting Arrangements: Karl & Jan Kleinbub  
At Large: Brad Damon, Travis Petrie and Marlene Mendonsa  
Web/Audio/Visual: Travis Petrie & a volunteer

**Regular Monthly Dinner \$11++ Join us in person if you are able!** Be sure to send your RSVP to Karl Kleinbub ASAP: [knj1002@myninestar.net](mailto:knj1002@myninestar.net) or phone 317- 607- 6948. **no later than June 23!** A head count for Northside Social is very important. Also, please have CASH in exact change \$11 ++ tip for your meal. You do not want to miss the opportunity either for the book / artifact drawing: \$5.00 per ticket. Alan Andrews always has a great selection of "gems" as does Travis Petrie with WW2 era

## Featured Speaker June 27, 2022

Kathryn Lerch is Director of Park Tudor School's Legacy Initiative Project which collects unpublished accounts depicting wartime experiences. Since 2000, in an effort to preserve important wartime stories, students have completed more than 700 oral history interviews with veterans, both American and foreign. Students have also delved into military history as they transcribed original wartime letters and diaries. Travel opportunities have also supplemented their studies; they have researched Civil War pension files, Vietnam campaigns, ship's logs and unit histories at the National Archives in Washington, DC. Students have also joined Round Table members during trips to wartime sites in England, France, Belgium, and Germany. Kathryn Lerch is former chair of the Social Studies Department at Park Tudor. She has published Civil War articles with the Maryland Historical Society, is the recipient of numerous Teacher of the Year awards in the State of Indiana from the Indiana Historical Society, the DAR and the American Legion.

In the meantime, enjoy Pierce Powers's wartime correspondence—This project took more than three years to complete: from scanning and transcribing hundreds of personal letters, to researching events, places, as well as family and personal connections. Service records belonging to Major Pierce W. Powers indicate he served from Normandy to Czechoslovakia, where he "functioned in both field and evacuation hospitals, performing all types of general surgery. Awarded the Bronze Star Medal and [he was] authorized [to wear] the European Theater of Operations Ribbon with 5 Bronze Battle Stars and 1 Bronze Arrowhead for participation in the invasion of Normandy. Authorized to wear the Distinguished Unit Badge and while attached to the 261<sup>st</sup> Medical Battalion [and] the Croix de Guerre with Palm." — *US Army Separation Record for Pierce W. Powers*

**Advance Praise:** *"D-Day. Omaha Beach. Battle of the Bulge. Crossing the Rhine into Germany. VE Day. Waiting to come home. For anyone interested in a first-hand experience of World War II as lived by an Army surgeon, this book is spot on. The letters of Major Pierce Powers, MD, to his recent bride, Estelle, take the reader through the places and experiences that Powers lived from March, 1944 to August, 1945. The letters take us with Powers as he prepares for the D-Day invasion. We are with Powers as he moves into luxurious new quarters, "a fox hole for two" somewhere in France. We are with him as he works tirelessly, at one point performing almost 250 surgical cases in a month. We are with him as he tries to find his wife's relatives in Paris. Most of all, we feel the charming love of a dedicated surgeon for his new wife. He wants nothing more than to be with her but gives his best every day to treat the patients brought to him, all the while longing to be reunited with his beloved."* — Major Stephen Wintermeyer, U.S. Army Medical Corps, Chief of Medicine, 46<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Hospital in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm

Since 2001, the Legacy Initiative Project has published six anthologies, three travel journals, and three biographical monographs. The latest book about Pierce Powers, MD, will be published this month, soon to be followed by another monograph containing wartime correspondence written by **Alma De Luce**, wife of AP Press and Pulitzer Prize recipient, Daniel De Luce. Alma and Dan arrived in England in spring 1939. The next assignment brought them to Budapest, Hungary—so that Dan could be closer to the action. From there Dan traveled to Poland to report on the electrifying events of September 1, 1939. The De Luces always remained close to the action and frequently they were just one step ahead of the Germans. When the Germans invaded Hungary, the couple fled Budapest for Athens. Their stay here was also too brief. When the Germans invaded Greece, the couple fled next to Beirut, Lebanon. Although Alma eventually sailed across the Pacific to the States, Dan backtracked to Yugoslavia where he did "telegraphic reporting of Tito's partisans in Yugoslavia in 1943". For this assignment he received the Pulitzer Prize in 1944. However Alma's letters to her friends are just as compelling. Her perceptive and descriptive analysis of locales, people and events are a pleasure to read. She possessed a wry sense of humor and exceptional writing skills—thus her letters are just as captivating as her husband's press reports. Their wartime adventure story is comparable to the action plots in Herman Wouk's *Winds of War* trilogy and the TV series *Fortunes of War* (1984). Stay tuned!



**HOME FROM THE WARS**—Alma De Luce, wife of Daniel De Luce, ace Associated Press foreign correspondent, who is on her way home to Los Angeles. Wide World photo

## Watch for these Upcoming Programs . . .

TRIVIA	PROGRAM TOPIC		HOST/SPEAKER
JULY Dick Coy	Remembering D-Day: "Vinton Dove with the 37th Engineers drives his 'Hellcat' on Omaha Beach"		Kathryn Lerch host/ Vinton Dove (Jr.)
AUGUST Scott Green	Alma De Luce 's Correspondence: Eyewitness to War in Europe in 1939 –1940 and the Associate Press		Kathryn Lerch
SEPTEMBER TBD	"Forgiveness: The Story of Eva Kor, Survivor of the Auschwitz Twin Experiments" A Graphic Biography [Be sure to also visit the Eva Kor exhibit at the Indiana Historical Society!]		Brad Damon host/ Joe Lee, Graphic Story Designer
OCTOBER TBD	Marine Corporal Josh Bleill formerly from Greenfield, IN, Bleill enlisted after 9/11. He shares his inspirational story of survival after being critically wounded in the Iraq War		Bill Ervin host/ Josh Bleill
NOVEMBER TBD	In honor of Veterans Day: Sammy L. Davis, Medal of Honor Recipient, Vietnam		Bill Ervin/host Sammy Davis
DECEMBER Members share stories	Tom Cassidy Air Ace and Allied Agent in WWII		Brad Damon

The Board encourages our WW2 Round Table members to share suggestions for potential speakers—we are continually looking for articulate presenters with engaging topics which will be of interest to our membership! Please reach out to Chuck Holt, Bill Ervin, or Kathryn Lerch

### REMINDER: 2022 WWII Round Table Dues are Payable Now

Please pay via website or bring exact cash or check to dinner in May. At dinner sign-in, you will also be able to confirm correctness of your membership information. This will help us update our membership list. **Veteran Family \$20.00; Non-Veteran Family \$25.00; WWII Veterans FREE Membership**