



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

May & June 2024 Newsletter

www.WWIIroundtable.com

Hello! If you missed our last dinner meeting you missed out hearing from 3 Vietnam Vets and their very interesting stories—some sad and some happy. While WWII is our founding focus, we try to present talks on that era including WWI/Korea and some Vietnam and more recent wars. We rely on YOU to support us by membership and donations—if you know any entity that would like to donate, please let us know! We also can always use help during the dinner meetings/books and militaria & historical artifacts for our drawing. Please not only invite but bring guests (RSVP) to grow our group—especially young folks who are keen on history. If you are computer/PPP/A-V savvy, Gudrun and Steve can always use your help in making the presentation and on the day of the program. I want to thank the Board and especially Gudrun Carlson for designing our coin and Andy Fulks for contracting the minting of our BEAUTIFUL NEW Challenge Coins! It has taken lots of hard work and patience...you can get YOUR very own for a mere \$10 donation. As always, we appreciate your suggestions for potential topics/speakers. I peruse the obits looking for families that might be interested in presenting their loved one's story...some obits are incredible in detailing the deceased's military service or link to WWII, etc. [cont. p. 3]

Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Social! Please RSVP

7:00: Trivia Presentation 7:15 Featured Program

Programs May 20 and June 24, 2024



Brad Damon, Round Table Board

"The Balbo Monument in Chicago, Illinois:
Mussolini's Tribute to a Flying Fascist"



Tom Slemmons, WW2 RT Member

"WW2 Campaign in Burma"

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

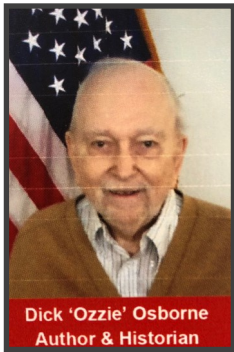
Doors open - 5 PM
\$11 Buffet Dinner - 6 PM (RSVP)
Program - 7 PM

WWIIROUNDTABLE.COM

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@mytwinetstar.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 May & June 2024

Inspired by Ozzie's earlier trivia reports . . .

Eighty Years ago! . . . in May & June 1944

- ◆ *May 3 — Over Nazi Europe:* During the night, RAF bombers target an army depot at Mailly, near Rheims (Germany), aircraft stores at Montdidier (France), an ammunition dumps at Chateaudun (France) and Ludwigshafen (Germany). A total of 49 aircraft are lost.
- ◆ *May 3 — In the United States...* The production of synthetic quinine (anti-malarial) by young Harvard scientists Woodward and Doering is announced in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- ◆ *May 4 — In the United States...* Most meat products are removed from the ration list. Steaks and choice cuts for roasting remain rationed.
- ◆ *May 7 — Over Romania...* The US 15th Air Force and British Bomber Command attack railway yards in Bucharest during the day and night, leaving the city in flames.
- ◆ *May 8 — In Washington...* The US Senate extends the term of Lend-Lease aid to June 1945. *In London...* General Eisenhower selects June 5th as D-Day for the Normandy invasion.
- ◆ *May 11 — In Italy...* The US 5th Army launches new attacks against the German-held Gustav Line. The preparatory bombardment begins just before midnight. It is followed up by infantry advances. The US 2nd Corps, the Polish 2nd Corps, the British 13th Corps and the French Expeditionary Corps are engaged. Attacking Allied forces amount to 12 divisions plus reserves. . . . Meanwhile, Allied warships bombard German heavy artillery batteries around Gaeta.
- ◆ *May 13 — In Italy...* Forces of the US 5th Army continue to attack. The Polish 2nd Corps suffers heavy losses in unsuccessful attacks against the German 1st Parachute Division holding Cassino. The French Expeditionary Corps, however, captures Castelforte as well as Monte Maio and advance to the Liri River at Sant'Appollinaire. The US 2nd Corps and British 13th Corps make limited advances during the day.
- ◆ *May 17 In Burma...* Merrill's Marauders help Chinese forces capture Myitkyina airfield. *In Italy...* Allied forces of the US 5th Army continue to advance in the Liri Valley. . . . The German command decides withdraw to a new line of defense.
- ◆ *May 19 — In Italy...* Allied forces of US 5th Army continue to make advances. The US 2nd Corps captures Gasta Itri and Monte Grande.
- ◆ *May 23 — In Italy...* The US 6th Corps in the Anzio beachhead launches an attack on Cisterna. German resistance results in high Allied casualties. Meanwhile, the US 5th Army continues offensive operations. US 2nd Corps patrols reach Terracina.
- ◆ *May 28 — Over Germany...* Bombers of the US 8th Air Force attack Leuna and Magdeburg.
- ◆ *May 29 — Over Germany...* About 400 American bombers attack German synthetic fuel works and oil refineries at Polits and other locations. The damage caused sets back aircraft fuel production.
- ◆ *June 1 — In Italy...* Forces of the US 5th Army advance toward Rome. The US 2nd and 6th Corps, exploiting the capture of Velletri, attack through the Alban Hills toward Albano and Valmonte. With the breach of the Caesar Line, German Army Group C (Kesselring) orders a withdrawal north of Rome. Rearguards delay the American advance.
- ◆ *June 4 — From London...* The Allied Expeditionary Force convoys, bound Normandy, are called back to port because of poor weather conditions expected for June 5th. Eisenhower decides, however, that the invasion can take place on June 6th. The poor weather has also encourage the German defenders in occupied France. Rommel, commanding Army Group B, decides to go to Germany for his wife's birthday on June 6th and to meet with Hitler. Other German commanders in the Normandy area are at a training exercise in Brittany.
- ◆ *June 5 — On the Western Front...* Allied airborne troops embark for Normandy just before midnight. The convoys carrying the Allied Expeditionary Force are nearing France.
- ◆ *June 5 — From London...* The BBC broadcasts a second message, intended for the French Resistance, warning of the imminent invasion. Again, the significance of the message is noted by German authorities but the 7th Army in Normandy is not alerted.

Continued on page 3 . . .

See source: <https://onwar.com/wwii/chronology/194405.html>

May 20 Program* Note this is 3rd Monday in May

Due to our very tight budget, we usually cannot pay for speakers...which brings up another item...there are speakers out there, that we very much would like to bring here, but it would require someone to financially sponsor their travel/room/board. If YOU know of any potential sponsors, please let the Board OR me know.

Charles Allen Holt, D.O.



In May, You do not want to miss this intriguing program presented by our board member, Brad Damon.

"What is a 2,000 year-old Roman column, standing on a base with an inscription praising the new 'Fascist Era' inaugurated by Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, doing along a bicycle trail in Burnham Park in the shadow of Soldiers Field in Chicago?

Why is a street leading to the lakeshore park from downtown Chicago named after one of the founders of Fascist Italy?

Why do many people demand that the column and its pedestal be removed from public view and the street be renamed, while many others are equally determined to preserve them both as they are?

Learn how a World's Fair, a staunchly proud ethnic community, and a remarkable aviation feat by one of the most complex and controversial figures of the age of dictatorship in the 1930s combined to bring about these perplexing circumstances. Brad Damon presents his talk on 'The Balbo Monument in Chicago, Illinois: Mussolini's Tribute to a Flying Fascist' at our May 20, 2024 meeting."

On this Day . . . Tuesday, June 6, 1944 *On the Western Front...* Operation Overlord begins. In Normandy, France, during the predawn hours, the US 101st and 82nd Airborne Divisions are dropped inland from the right flank beach. The British 6th Airborne Division is landed inland from the left flank beach. These forces achieve their objectives and create confusion among the German defenders. The Allied Expeditionary Force lands in Normandy at dawn. . . . There are five invasion beaches: Utah on the right flank, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword, on the left flank. At Utah, the US 7th Corps (General Collins) lands with US 4th Division spearheading the assault. The troops advance inland against light resistance. Admiral Moon provides naval support. At Omaha, the US 5th Corps (General Gerow) lands. There is heavy resistance and by the end of the day the American forces have advance less than one mile inland. [To be continued in June—July issue]



National Archives

Please send us suggestions for future programs!

New Member & Renewal Annual Dues Now Being Accepted for 2024

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: _____

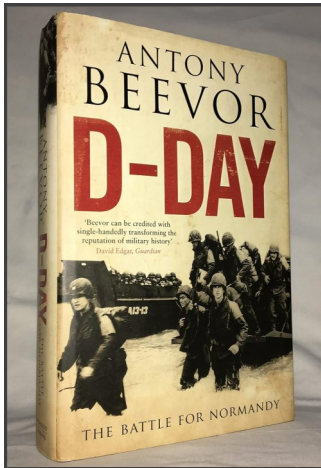
EMAIL: _____ Address: _____

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

As a courtesy to others, with the winter season's 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.

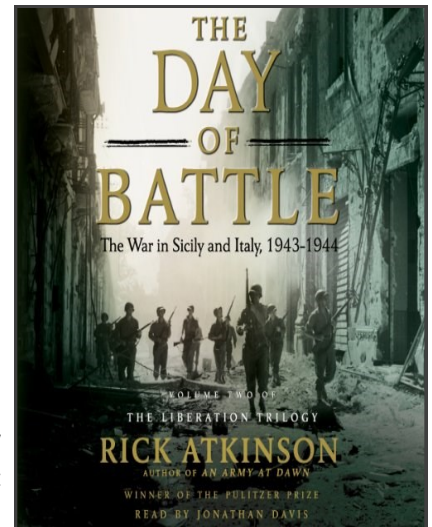
Same time, same place, great speakers and remember to invite a guest!

Book Recommendations



Beevor's *D-Day*: "Loved the level of detail. Read it and you'll get D-Day from ally perspective. Beevor is British but he was reasonable fair to the Americans and, surprisingly, fairly critical of Monty. Overall, a must-read for WW2 buffs."

In *An Army at Dawn* - winner of the Pulitzer Prize - Rick Atkinson provided a dramatic and authoritative history of the Allied triumph in North Africa. Now, in *The Day of Battle*, he follows the American and British armies as they invade Sicily in July 1943, attack Italy two months later, and then fight their way, mile by bloody mile, north toward Rome. . . . Drawing on extensive new material from a wide array of primary sources, and written with great drama and flair, *The Day of Battle* is narrative history of the first rank.



On the basis of 1,400 oral histories from the men who were there, bestselling author and World War II historian Stephen E. Ambrose reveals for the first time anywhere that the intricate plan for the invasion of France in June 1944 had to be abandoned before the first shot was fired. The true story of D-Day, as Ambrose relates it, is about the citizen soldiers - junior officers and enlisted men - taking the initiative to act on their own to break through Hitler's Atlantic Wall when they realized that nothing was as they had been told it would be. D-DAY is the brilliant, no holds barred, telling of the battles of Omaha and Utah beaches. Ambrose relives the epic victory of democracy on the most important day of the twentieth century.

