



## From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

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

April showers bring great dinner programs! Looking forward to hear about the eponymous LT Frank Luke, Jr.. I actually sat in the fighter plane trainer decades ago at Luke AFB, Phoenix, AZ, in a training building and the instructor put me through various virtual scenarios. Sadly to say, I was shot down within minutes, each time. It confirmed my career path as an Army and VA osteopathic family practice doc. RSVP ASAP as usual/invite others/only Zoom if cannot attend in person.

*Charles Holt, D.O.*

**April 25, 2022, 7:00 PM In-Person & Zoom\***

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

7:00 "Trivia Report" Brad Damon & 7:15 Program



FRANK LUKE IN FRANCE

**Guest Speaker  
Stephen Skinner**

**The Last Flight of Frank  
Luke, the "Arizona balloon  
buster" in WW1**



Where history comes alive!

Northside Social Club

2100 E 71st Street

Indianapolis,

IN 46220

6:00 Dinner served  
\$11 + table tip++

7:00 Program  
In person & Zoom

**DATES FOR 2022**

JAN 24      AUG 22

FEB 28      SEP 26

MAR 28      OCT 24

APR 25      NOV 28

MAY 23      DEC 5

JUN 27

JUL 25

**Regular Monthly Dinner \$11++ Join us in person !** Be sure to send your RSVP to Karl Kleinbub ASAP: [knj1002@my9star.net](mailto:knj1002@my9star.net) or phone 317- 607- 6948. **no later than April 18!** 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 books and more. The April meeting will be our last hybrid meeting—no Zoom in May. Attendance has been steady & there was a great turn out for Gary Powers, Jr. in March!



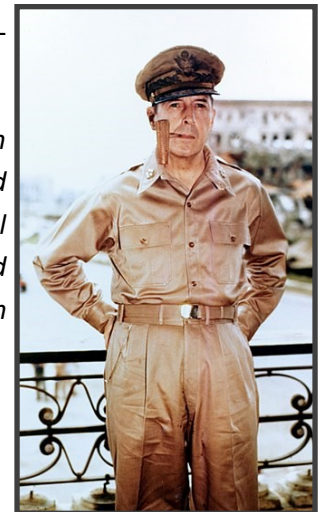
Dick 'Ozzie' Osborne  
Author & Historian

## WW 2 TRIVIA FOR APRIL 2022

- There were 15 members of the Axis Alliance. Fourteen of them declared war on the US. The only Axis nation that did not declare war on the US was Finland.
- In Vichy controlled France women could no longer buy cigarettes and alcoholic beverages were served every other day in cafes.
- Winston Churchill wrote in his book *The Gathering Storm* with regard to the fall of France in June 1940, "Five times in 100 years, in 1814, 1815, 1870, 1914 and 1918, had the towers of Notre Dame seen the flash of Prussian guns and heard the thunder of their cannon fire."
- In Szechwan Province, China, of which the Nationalist capitol was Chungking, there was a severe drought in the summer of 1945. To combat this, local citizens organized an ancient tradition, *The Praying-For-Rain Dragon Corps*. A local lama supplicated the heavenly waters by burning incense for 3 days at an altar and a parade was organized in which the participating men wore time-honored rain-making costumes of short trousers, bands of green grass around their heads, chanted incantations, beat gongs and were bare chested. The day after the parade - it rained.
- In Europe in early April 1945 the final defeat of Nazi Germany was rapidly approaching but it began raining for several days hampering Allied operations. At this point General Patton ordered his Chaplain to pray for rain. He did so and the rain soon stopped.\*\*
- When the Lend Lease bill on sending war supplies to the atheist Soviet Union was being considered in Congress some Catholic leaders expressed their opposition to the bill. To address this President Roosevelt suggested to the Soviet Ambassador to the US, Umansky, that a statement from Stalin on increasing the freedom of religion in the Soviet Union would facilitate the passing of the bill. Stalin ignored the suggestion and the bill was passed without it.
- When General MacArthur arrived in Australia after leaving the Philippines, he made the famous statement "I shall return." President Roosevelt later suggested that that statement be modified to "We shall return." MacArthur ignored the suggestion and it remained "I shall return."

\*\*Prayer provided to Patton: *Almighty and most merciful Father, we humbly beseech Thee, of Thy great goodness, to restrain these immoderate rains with which we have had to contend. Grant us fair weather for Battle. Graciously hearken to us as soldiers who call upon Thee that, armed with Thy power, we may advance from victory to victory, and crush the oppression and wickedness of our enemies and establish Thy justice among men and nations.*

. . . . more trivia next month

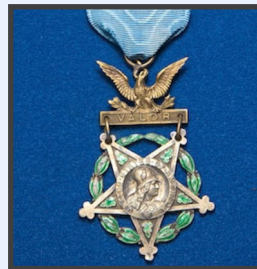
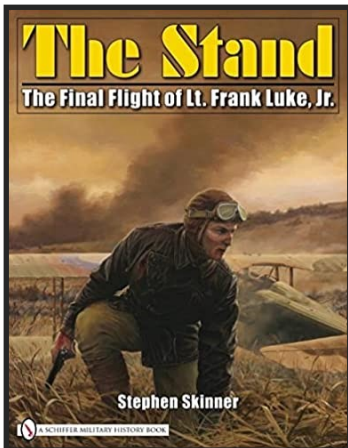


## PROGRAM & SPEAKER FOR APRIL



“The Stand: The Final Flight of Lt. Frank Luke, Jr. writes the last chapter on the life and death of America's most spectacular fighter pilot. After fifteen years of research, author and Telly Award-winning television host Stephen Skinner pens a driving, dynamic account that fills in the blanks left behind by history after the legendary Arizona balloon buster died under controversial circumstances deep in enemy lines in September of 1918.”

Learn more about his fascinating background and WW1 accomplishments at our April dinner.



Our author will also bring books and DVDs for purchase. Books are also available on Amazon.com and he will autograph.

### About Guest Author Stephen Skinner

Stephen Skinner is an author, expedition leader, seminar speaker and television host specializing in topics related to World War I aviation. After fifteen years of worldwide research and on-site archeological work in France, Skinner is the foremost expert on the life and death of Medal of Honor ace Lt. Frank Luke, Jr. He has also hosted a documentary revealing how battlefield archeology solved the 90-year-old mystery of Luke's death, titled "The Search for THE STAND: The Final Flight of Lt. Frank Luke, Jr." (available on DVD at [www.THESTANDfrankluke.com](http://www.THESTANDfrankluke.com)).

His writing has been featured in Over The Front journal, the leading World War I aviation periodical published by the Society of World War I Aviation Historians. Skinner has hosted aviation telecasts including the Oshkosh Airventure Air Show, Extreme Air Show Challenge and the National Museum of the Air Force's Dawn Patrol Rendezvous. He frequently serves as a keynote speaker for aviation events, seminars and air shows.

Stephen's work on Lt. Frank Luke, Jr. and other topics have taken him to fourteen different countries around the globe, including expeditions through France's old Western Front, across the Sahara Desert, North Africa and through the Appalachian Mountains. He has written three books, scores of articles and hosted hundreds of television programs on major national networks. Skinner is also an active mountaineer and martial artist. Stephen, his wife and their four children reside in the American Midwest..

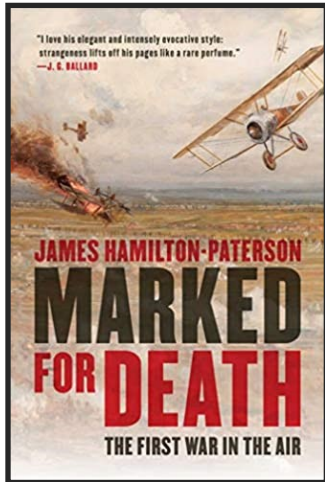
Two video clips provide more information about Frank Luke: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qXqrrwKhFiw> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KdYDqACxCec>

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

Please pay via website or bring exact cash or check to dinner in March. 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**



## ADDITIONAL BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS: WWI in the Air



**A dramatic and fascinating account of aerial combat during World War I, revealing the terrible risks taken by the men who fought and died in the world's first war in the air.**

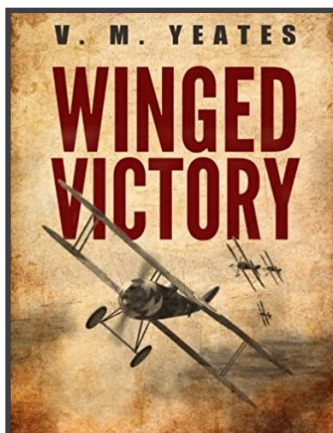
Little more than ten years after the first powered flight, aircraft were pressed into service in World War I. Nearly forgotten in the war's massive overall death toll, some 50,000 aircrew would die in the combatant nations' fledgling air forces. . . .

**James Hamilton-Paterson** also reveals how four years of war produced profound changes both in the aircraft themselves and in military attitudes and strategy. By 1918 it was widely accepted that domination of the air above the battlefield was crucial to military success, a realization that would change the nature of warfare forever.



**Arthur Gould Lee's book focused on Royal Air Force . . .**

*No Parachute*: From the young airmen who took their frail machines high above the trenches of World War I and fought their foes in single combat there emerged a renowned company of brilliant aces – among them Ball, Bishop, McCudden, Collishaw and Mannock – whose legendary feats have echoed down half a century. But behind the elite there were, in the Royal Flying Corps, many hundreds of other airmen who flew their hazardous daily sorties in out-dated planes without ever achieving fame. Here is the story of one of these unknown flyers – a story based on letters written on the day, hot on the event, which tells of a young pilot's progress from fledgling to seasoned fighter. His descriptions of air fighting, sometimes against the Richtofen Circus, of breathless dogfights between Sopwith Pup and Albatros, are among the most vivid and immediate to come out of World War I.



*Winged Victory* is a 1934 novel by English World War I fighter pilot Victor Maslin Yeates that is widely regarded as a classic description of aerial combat and the futility of war. The novel concerns World War I, the existence pilots lead and the fear involved in flying early biplanes. Its protagonist, Tom Cundall, plans to leave the Royal Air Force when his service is up and live on a West Country farm with his friends. However, by the time he is due to leave the Air Force, all his friends have "gone west". This leaves him a broken man. The narrative combination of action, pathos, humour and humility set against the huge casualties of the RAF in 1918 makes *Winged Victory* one of the classics of Great War literature. The book is semi-autobiographical, V. M. Yeates having served with 46 Squadron flying Sopwith Camels in 1918 and also having lost all his friends in the war. T. E. Lawrence praised it on its release with the words "Admirable, admirable, admirable. One of the most distinguished histories of the war ... masterly". However, it went out of print due to a lack of a publisher and was soon forgotten. Yeates died in 1934 from tuberculosis.

**WW1 aviation provided lessons for future wars and the increasing importance of aviation could not be ignored. For more information go to: [With Courage—The U.S. Army Air Forces in WWII](#) This pdf is very informative. See**

<https://media.defense.gov/2010/Dec/02/2001329904/-1/-1/0/AFD-101202-024.pdf>

## ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATION

# Russia, Ukraine and Beyond

## Stuart Goldman Blog

Like many of you, I've been following Russia's war in Ukraine closely – me more than most, I suppose, because of my life-long involvement in Russian affairs. By coincidence, I had just re-read Timothy Snyder's little book, *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*, a few weeks ago. It has helped propel me into action. One of Snyder's points is that when you recognize that things are going terribly wrong, it's not enough simply to wring your hands, commiserate with like-minded friends, and mutter about how awful it is. You've got to DO something. What you do depends on your circumstances and abilities, e.g.: join a civic association, do volunteer work, contribute financially to a fund or organization that's doing good work, or just speak up rather than standing silently on the sidelines.

What I can do is write – analytically and persuasively, about what Putin is doing in Ukraine, why he's doing it, and what the implications are for us. I've launched a blog web site: ***RUSSIA, UKRAINE, and BEYOND: A Historian's Perspective on the Crisis in Ukraine***, and posted my first blog on March 14. Check it out at [www.stuartgoldman.com](http://www.stuartgoldman.com). If you like what you see, I encourage you to:

- Tell me. Better yet, subscribe to the blog (click on the “contact” link) and automatically receive my future posts. It's free, of course.
- Share the blog link with your friends – and encourage them to share it with *their* friends. The Putin regime is waging information warfare. And a lot of the “Breaking News!” coverage here is scattershot, hard for the viewer/reader to make sense of. The more people who get a clear-eyed view of what's going on, why, and what's at stake, the better.
- Post the link, with your endorsement, on your social media platforms, (Facebook, Twitter, etc.), and encourage your friends to do the same.

- If *you* want to do something, these last two points are an easy way to start.

- Share your feedback with me, positive or negative, with suggestions on how I might improve the blog(s) and the web site.

Thank you to RT member, John Shively for helping us make this connection.

