



## From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

July 2021 Newsletter [www.WWIIroundtable.com](http://www.WWIIroundtable.com)

Greetings! I hope you caught last month's incredible story of one of our own member's step-father—he survived bailing out of a B-17, with severe wounds, over Austria.

We have a drawing at each meeting and are always looking for donations of items for it (as well as monetary donations—we walk a thin tightrope). As well, we only get the meeting room, for free, if attendees purchase a meal.

You must RSVP the meal with Karl Kleinbub 317 607-6948 as far ahead as possible. We need a volunteer ASAP to learn to run our AV for the meetings...Charlie Russell will train you...he is retiring.

*Charles Holt, D.O.*

### July 26, 2021, 7:00 PM In-Person & Zoom

Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Social! 7:00 Greetings & 7:10 Ozzie's History Report will be "Slovakia"

**In-person Featured Speaker: Ian Ona Johnson, PhD**

**from the University of Notre Dame**

**"Faustian Bargain: The Soviet-German Partnership & The Origins of the Second World War"**

July 26, 2021 06:45 PM Log-In available

Meeting Starts 7:00 PM Use Zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82588663031?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82588663031?pwd=MzFUem9oL1diTjBsSWNjcIFPczhUQT09)  
[pwd=MzFUem9oL1diTjBsSWNjcIFPczhUQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82588663031?pwd=MzFUem9oL1diTjBsSWNjcIFPczhUQT09)

Meeting ID: 825 8866 3031  
Passcode: 013801

Log in easily from our webpage too!

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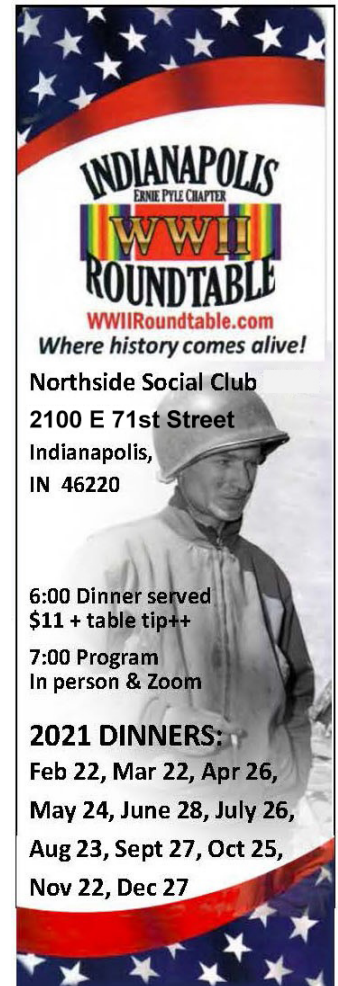
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6:00 Dinner served \$11 + table tip++

7:00 Program  
In person & Zoom

#### 2021 DINNERS:

Feb 22, Mar 22, Apr 26,  
May 24, June 28, July 26,  
Aug 23, Sept 27, Oct 25,  
Nov 22, Dec 27

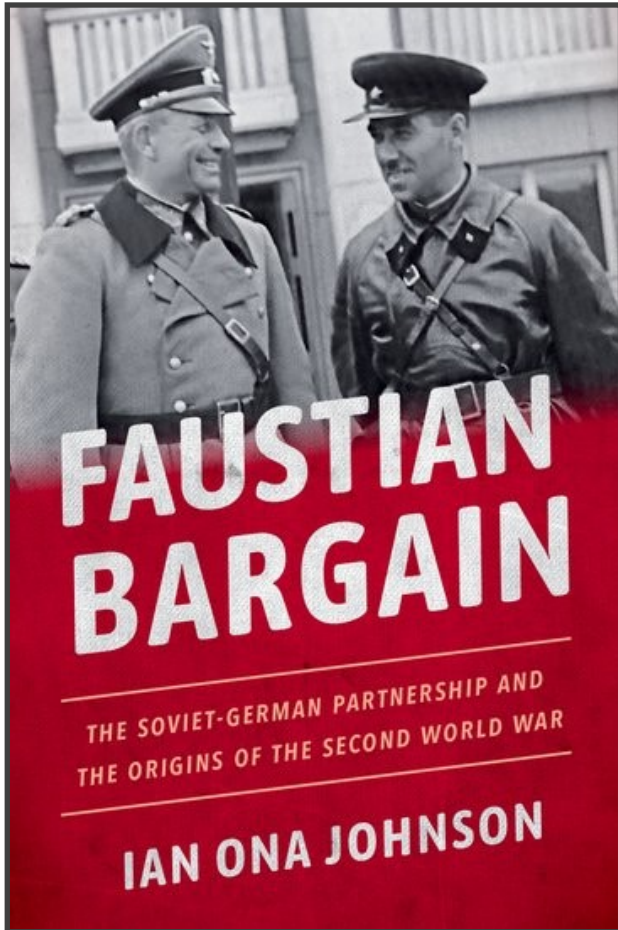
#### Dues Reminder

Accepting checks now for 2021, payable to: WWII Roundtable, Inc. P.O. Box 1965 Noblesville, IN 46061 Or, go to our website to pay online: [wwiiroundtable.com](http://wwiiroundtable.com)  
- Veteran \$20  
- Non-Veteran \$25  
- WWII Veterans free

Join us in person if you are able! Lots of our members attended in June and it was great to see so many friends once again. Remember, if you are in person and paying for a meal, you help support the Northside Service Club. They need our business. Be sure to send your RSVP to Karl Kleinbub ASAP: [knj1002@mytimestar.net](mailto:knj1002@mytimestar.net) or phone 317- 607- 6948. A head count for Northside Social is very important. Also, please have exact change \$11 ++ tip for your meal.

**After multiple dues reminders, non-dues payers will be dropped from membership on August 1**

## Guest Speaker will be Notre Dame Professor Ian Ona Johnson



Our speaker's curriculum vitae & employment is impressive!

### 2019 - present The University of Notre Dame

P.J.Moran Family Assistant Professor of Military History

### 2017- 2019 Yale University

Associate Director of the Brady-Johnson Program in Grand Strategy. Lecturer in the History Department.

### 2016-2017 The University of Texas at Austin

Postdoctoral Fellow at the Clements Center for National Security. Lecturer in the History Department.

### 2015-2016 Yale University

Pre-doctoral Fellow in International Security Studies.

### EDUCATION

#### **The Ohio State University, Department of History**

**2010-2016 Ph.D.**, History. Dissertation: "The Faustian Pact: Secret Soviet-German Cooperation in the Interwar Period." Major Field: Military History. Minor Fields: Soviet History and Modern European History, with a focus on technology. Advisor: Jennifer Siegel. **M.A.**, History. Thesis: "The Secret School of War: The Soviet-German Tank Academy at Kama." **Claremont McKenna College 2005-2009, B.A., cum laude.** Majors: History and Government.

### **MONOGRAPHS**

*The Faustian Bargain: Secret Soviet-German Military Cooperation, 1918-1941.* New York: Oxford University Press. June 2021. [A limited number of copies will be available for purchase at the dinner meeting; you may also purchase online and bring to have signed by the speaker.](#)

### **EDITED WORKS**

Co-Editor with Robert Clemm. *Bloody Years of Peace: A Global Military History of the Interwar Period.* Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas. Under Contract. Fall 2021.

Editor. *The White Nights: Pages from a Russian Doctor's Notebook.* Tyler, Texas: Bowen Press Books. April 2018.

### **PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES**

"Strategy on the Wintry Sea: The Russo-British Submarine Flotilla in the Baltic, 1914-1918."

*International Journal of Military History and Historiography*. Volume 40, Issue 2 (October 2021).

“Prophet of Poison Gas: Yakov Fishman and the Soviet Chemical Weapons Program, 1924-1937.” *Vulcan: The International Journal of the Social History of Military Technology*. Volume 6, Number 1 (August 2018).

“Technology’s Cutting Edge: Futurism and Research in the Red Army, 1917-1937.” *Technology and Culture*. Volume 59, Number 3 (August 2018).

“The Secret School of War: The Secret Soviet-German Armored Warfare Academy at Kama, 1919-1933.” *Journal of Global War Studies*. Volume 13, Number 2 (Summer 2017).

“The Fire of Revolution: A Counterfactual Analysis of the Polish-Bolshevik War.” *Journal of Slavic Military Studies*. Volume 28, Number 1 (March 2015).

#### ARTICLES CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

Ernst Volckheim, Heinz Guderian, and the Origins of German Armor Doctrine, *The Journal of Military History* (Submitted June 2021).

The Board of the WW2 Roundtable is very excited about our July speaker . . . Did you know, too, that some of our members and their family members also have some incredible stories to share? The Board would like to encourage you to contact board members or **Kathryn Lerch (klerch@parktudor.org)** if you would like to share a story or two!

Kathryn can help with scanning photos, documents, and putting together a PowerPoint for a presentation. You may make an appointment for a time slot before one of our monthly dinners, or at another time by special arrangement: **5:00-5:30** or **5:30-6:00**. Just let us know how we may help!

We would love to have a Fall or Winter meeting featuring some of our members’ best stories—highlighting especially accounts from WWII—from any branch of service, including also civilian stories, and stories from any nation! Let’s document and save your family history.

This “service” is related to the Legacy Initiative Project at Park Tudor School. For more information on this project go to: [www.parktudor.org/legacy](http://www.parktudor.org/legacy)



**SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH THE WW2 ROUND TABLE!**





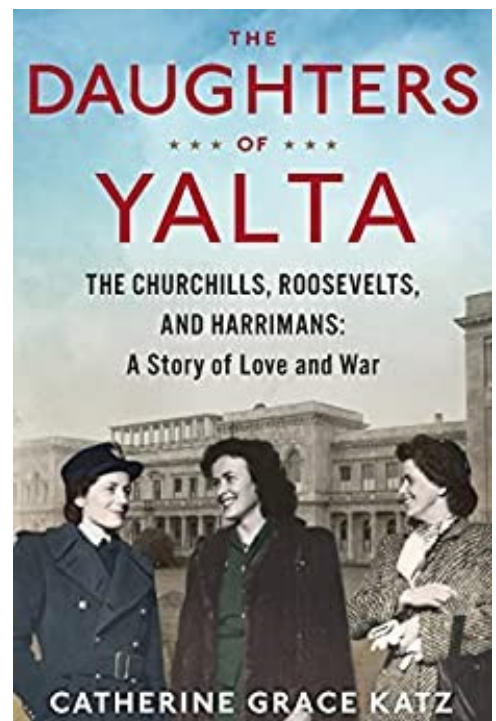
## WW II TRIVIA FOR JULY 2021

- The White-Knuckled Commisar: Joseph Stalin was terrified of flying. The first time he was in an airplane was on his trip to meet Roosevelt and Churchill at Teheran.
- Is that our leader?: On July 2, 1941, two weeks after the Germans had begun their invasion of the Soviet Union, Stalin spoke to the Soviet people over the radio for the very first time. And for the first time, the Soviet people heard his

heaving Georgian [in the USSR] accent. Heretofore, many believed that Stalin was a Russian.

- Does the Vatican have an army?: In 1931, French Premier Pierre Laval met with Stalin and suggested to the Soviet leader that he tone down his persecution of Russian Catholics so as not to intensify the conflict between the Soviet Union and the Vatican. Stalin's reply was, "The Pope? How many divisions has he?"
- The Honeymoon is over: At the Yalta Conference in February 1945, Stalin seemed to agree to too many of the demands made by Churchill and Roosevelt. After the Conference, there was a brief honeymoon during which the two western leaders believed that Stalin would be most cooperative in the post-war years. But, within six weeks, Stalin began to renege on his commitments. It was a very short honeymoon.
- **. MORE TRIVIA NEXT MONTH**

For an in-depth study of Stalin, Churchill and Roosevelt at the Yalta Conference from the perspective of daughters at the conference, this is a fabulous new book by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (2020): *The Daughters of Yalta: The Churchills, Roosevelts and Harrimans: A Story of Love and War*. The author is Catherine Grace Katz, a writer and historian from Chicago. She holds degrees in history from Harvard and Cambridge and is currently pursuing her JD at Harvard Law School. This is "the untold story of three intelligent and glamorous young women who accompanied their famous fathers to the Yalta Conference in February 1945, and of the conference's fateful reverberations in the waning days of World War II." "This is a remarkable story of fathers and daughters whose relationships were tested and strengthened by the history they witnessed and the future they crafted together."



## Hope you Enjoyed some Earlier Lectures "Guam & Wake Islands"

### Dr. John Shively's Lectures are available on YouTube

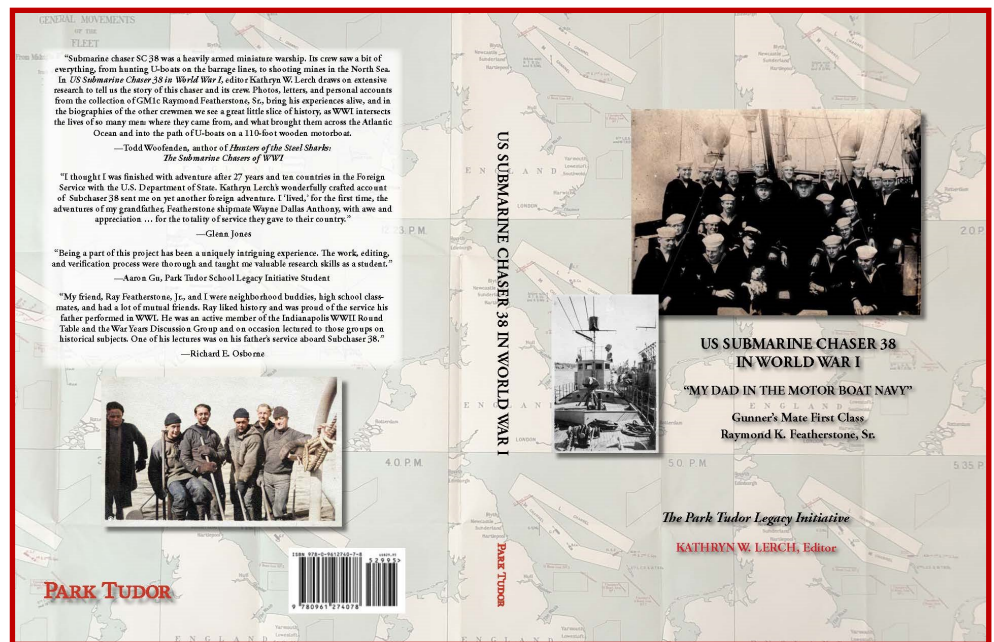
Historian/author and WWII Round Table member John Shively has presented a series of GoTo webinar lectures during this winter and spring. If you wish to be on his email list, please contact John Shively at [indjcs@aol.com](mailto:indjcs@aol.com) or 765-491-7010 or go to WWII RT webpage for information. His programs have been recorded and are available also via these links. John has revised Guadalcanal: Part 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ed1WAsJB2oU> Part 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W0A8TQTZh80> Part 3: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46OBY\\_2Ji7o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46OBY_2Ji7o) Part 4: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UN9tfONINeQ> and Part 5: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f23mKxOvp6c> I am now working on a lecture - or two - on the battle of Okinawa provisionally titled *Okinawa: The Last Battle*. Sometime I also will make a virtual tour of Okinawa as I did for Guadalcanal. This will be based mostly on the photos I have taken on my previous visits to Okinawa. I am not sure how long this lecture will be but anticipate it will not be anywhere near as long as the series on Guadalcanal. But... The plan after I finish Okinawa is to return to the battle of Guadalcanal and make a slideshow/lecture on the naval battles of Guadalcanal.

One of these days I hope to have my own website dedicated to the Pacific war with all of these lectures on one site rather than scattered on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Hope you enjoy these lectures and are learning something. They should put you in good stead if you plan to go with me to Guadalcanal or Okinawa in the future. This concludes the lectures on the land battles of Guadalcanal. I am now going to make one on the battle of Okinawa. When that is complete I will make one on the naval battles of Guadalcanal. As always, all critical comments are welcome. I want to get the history right. Also, comments on the cosmetic appearance are welcome. Cactus guide, John

Our project's newest book has arrived!

*US Submarine Chaser 38 in WWI* honors our late Round Table member, **Ray Featherstone, Jr.** and his father's WWI sub-chaser war service.

This is a tribute to both father and son, as well as the courageous men who served on this 110' wood boat in pursuit of German U-boats. Biographical material, unpublished photographs and



maps from the Featherstone Collection, as well as biographies for thirty-plus crew members. Hardcover book (8½ x11), glossy paper with more than 130 photographs and maps on 137 pages, including index. A limited number of books have been published and will be available for purchase at the July through September WW@ Round Table dinners.

If you wish the book mailed to you: Retail: \$29.95 media mail & handling: \$5.00 Send check made out to *Park Tudor School*, with "Legacy Initiative" on memo line. Mail to Kathryn Lerch, 711 E. 58th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220 for prompt response.

If you wish to pick up at our dinners, please send me an email to **reserve a copy**. Note, there will be a book signing opportunity following a short program about Featherstone at our September 27th dinner. The WW2RT will receive a small donation for each book sold at our meetings.

The book pairs well with our earlier publication, *Major John G. Emery in World War I Early Leader of the American Legion* (2020), which will also be available at the WWII RT dinners.

On-line Recommendation

<https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/video/sinister-alliance-soviet-german-relations-1939-1941>

**Book Recommendations, two classics and one new . . .**

**Enemy at the Gates (2015) By William Craig**

William Craig's *New York Times* bestseller served as the inspiration for the **2001 film of the same name**, starring Jude Law, Rachel Weiss, and Joseph Feinnes. The culmination of five years' worth of research, Craig's sweeping historical narrative brings to life the brutal siege of Stalingrad, a grueling battle between German and Soviet forces that lasted from August 1942 to February 1943, resulted in nearly 2 million casualties, and turned the tide of war against Hitler's regime.

**Stalingrad: The Fateful Siege: 1942-1943 (1999) By Anthony Beevor**

The five-month siege of Stalingrad was one of World War II's bloodiest battles and a turning point in the fight for Europe. Antony Beevor, a former British Army officer, brilliantly balances the huge scale of the conflict with a soldier's-eye view of some of the most horrific conditions in the history of modern warfare.

He begins with Operation Barbarossa, the 1941 German invasion of the Soviet Union that was plagued by bad weather, long supply lines, and difficult terrain, and analyzes how the Luftwaffe's carpet bombing of Stalingrad helped to create the treacherous, rubble-strewn conditions that allowed Soviet snipers to wage a gruesome war of attrition. Most captivatingly, Atkinson portrays Stalingrad as the terrifying outcome of totalitarianism: Hitler lived in a fantasy world and refused to listen to German officers who tried to save the Sixth Army from complete destruction, while Stalin's demands for total obeisance resulted in the executions of 13,500 Red Army soldiers.

**Stalin's War: A New History of World War II (2021) By Sean McMeekin**

A prize-winning historian reveals how Stalin—not Hitler—was the animating force of World War II in this major new history. A provocative revisionist take on the Second World War..."

World War II endures in the popular imagination as a heroic struggle between good and evil, with villainous Hitler driving its events. But Hitler was not in power when the conflict erupted in Asia—and he was certainly dead before it ended. His armies did not fight in multiple theaters, his empire did not span the Eurasian continent, and he did not inherit any of the spoils of war. That central role belonged to Joseph Stalin. The Second World War was not Hitler's war; it was Stalin's war.

Drawing on ambitious new research in Soviet, European, and US archives, *Stalin's War* revolutionizes our understanding of this global conflict by moving its epicenter to the east. Hitler's genocidal ambition may have helped unleash Armageddon, but as McMeekin shows, the war which emerged in Europe in September 1939 was the one Stalin wanted, not Hitler. So, too, did the Pacific war of 1941–1945 fulfill Stalin's goal of unleashing a devastating war of attrition between Japan and the "Anglo-Saxon" capitalist powers he viewed as his ultimate adversary.

McMeekin also reveals the extent to which Soviet Communism was rescued by the US and Britain's self-defeating strategic moves, beginning with Lend-Lease aid, as American and British supply boards agreed almost blindly to every Soviet demand. Stalin's war machine, McMeekin shows, was substantially reliant on American matériel from warplanes, tanks, trucks, jeeps, motorcycles, fuel, ammunition, and explosives, to industrial inputs and technology transfer, to the foodstuffs which fed the Red Army. This unreciprocated American generosity gave Stalin's armies the mobile striking power to conquer most of Eurasia, from Berlin to Beijing, for Communism. A groundbreaking reassessment of the Second World War, *Stalin's War* is essential reading for anyone looking to understand the current world order.