



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

October - November 2025 Newsletter

www.WWIIRoundtable.com

Greetings! Our programs this Fall continue to be spectacular! In September we learned all about New Yorker Maj. Walter Kutschera who served in the US Army Air Corps. He was a part of an important tactical mission to destroy German aviation factories in February 1944—all in preparation for D-Day five months later. Air losses on both sides were tremendous. In October, we will learn about modern warfare communications. Next, in November we will hear about action on the ground with a Tank Destroyer Battalion and another special WW2 veteran, Dayton Eddie. Two very different WW2 stories, both men were heroes who helped end the war in Europe. We all enjoy compelling stories, so don't forget to invite a friend, a neighbor or a veteran to join us for dinner and a program.

Regards,

Charles A. Holt, D.O.

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

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

Programs Oct 27 and Nov 24, 2025

"Modern Military Communications"

(Photo courtesy of dvidshub.net)



Rescheduled from Sept. 22

October 27, 2025

Christopher Siferts

"An American Unsung"

Dayton Edie, combat vet of WWII and
Korea & Member of OSS & CIC



Company A of the 605th Tank
Destroyer Battalion



November 24, 2025

Harold Finley, Author

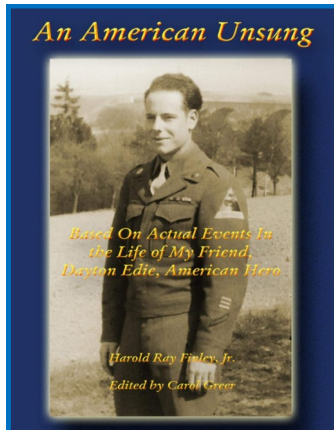
Roundtable Board

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,
& 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@mytwinstar.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!

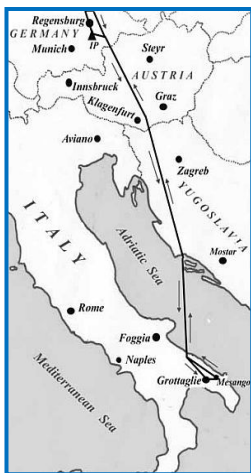
Military History Connecting our Programs . . . Through Books

More Information About Our Up-coming Programs



"Dayton Edie was my good friend and a bona fide American hero. He seldom spoke of his own combat from fighting in World War II and the Korean War, and on those rare occasions that he did, I listened intently. Although his own actions rarely came up, now and then he would discuss historic events and famous people encountered during his lifetime, and this story is as Dayton told it. Some of Dayton's experiences occurred when he was an operative for the Office of Strategic Services (OSS) and the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC), covert branches of the US government."—Amazon "He was born February 9, 1925 and lived in Carntown, Pendleton County, KY, during his youth. He had witnessed the horrors of war in World War II in the Battle of the Bulge and in Concentration Camp atrocities and he also served in Korea. He carried the scars of those experiences with him all through his life." [<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/louisville/name/dayton-edie-obituary?id=21920932>]

Service Time: Dayton was assigned to Company A of the 605th Tank Destroyer Battalion. On one occasion, Dayton found himself separated from his unit and was captured by a German patrol. He was able to escape but spent more than a day hiding in a farmer's various out-buildings. He went without real food for a week and actually befriended a couple of German soldiers who wanted to surrender. He eventually found an American unit. [<https://tankdestroyer.net/honorees/e/606-edie-dayton-605th/>]



Styer Mission: Operation Big Week February 24, 1944

our "substitute" program on Sept. 22

Official reports state that "Major Walter F. Kutschera, CO 429th Squadron, attempted to lead 32 aircraft to bomb the Daimler-Puch Aircraft Components Parts Factory at Steyr, Austria" on February 23rd, but this was cut short due to bad weather. However, on the 24th, "Major Walter F. Kutschera, CO 429th Squadron, took off with 35 aircraft and 25 got over the target and dropped 75 tons of 500-1b. bombs on the Aircraft Components Parts Factory at Steyr. The mission was a most disastrous day for the Group, losing 14 aircraft to enemy fighters." "B-24s were to have been a part of the striking force, 10 minutes behind the 2nd Bomb Group. Group did not arrive. Consequently, the 2nd Bomb Group took the brunt of the enemy attack." The day's missions targeted German aviation manufacturing and industrial facilities to cripple the Luftwaffe ahead of the Normandy landings. The primary objective was to lure the Luftwaffe into a decisive air battle and destroy Germany's aircraft production capabilities. "Big Week" operations cost the *Luftwaffe* a third of its available fighter aircraft.

Thank you Gudrun Carlson and Richard Eisgruber for presenting your program a month early! It deserves a reprise!

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!*

Advance Notice for Annual Dues 2026

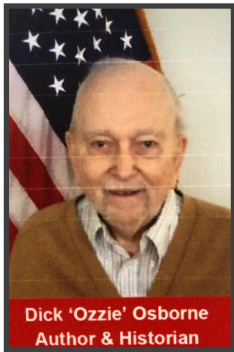
Veteran Family \$20.00; Non-Veteran Family \$25.00; WWII Veterans/widows FREE Membership

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 _____



WW 2 Trivia October & November 2025

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

- ◆ **October 1939:** French Premier Édouard Daladier declines Hitler's offer of peace, while Finland meets with Stalin in Moscow, with the Soviet Union demanding territorial concessions.

- ◆ **October 11, 1940:** The Greco-Italian War begins when Italy invades Greece. **October 31, 1940:** The Battle of Britain ends, with the RAF denying air superiority to the German Luftwaffe.
- ◆ **October 2, 1941:** The Battle of Moscow begins with Hitler declaring it the last great battle of the year.
- ◆ **October 12, 1942:** The Ukrainian Insurgent Army is activated.
- ◆ **October 28, 1943:** People in Naples, sensing the approach of the Allies, rise up against the German occupiers.
- ◆ **October 26, 1944:** The Battle of Leyte Gulf concludes with an American victory.

- ◆ **November 10, 1944:** The American ammunition ship *USS Mount Hood* exploded and sank in Seeadler Harbor, Manus, in the Admiralty Islands, with the loss of all 350 crew. [photo right] German submarine U-537 was torpedoed and sunk in the Java Sea by the American submarine *Flounder*. (NH 95404) Did you know? "At 0855 on 10 November 1944 in Seeadler Harbor, Manus Island, Admiralty Islands (near New Guinea), an explosion occurred amidships near the Number 3 and Number 4 holds on the new ammunition ship *USS Mount Hood* (AE-11). Moments later, a massive blast of the 3,800 tons of ordnance aboard obliterated the ship and killed every one of her



over 300-man crew who were aboard. The explosion dug a crater on the bottom, 35 feet below, 1,000 feet long, 50 feet across, and 30–40 feet deep. The largest piece of the ship found was 16 by 10 feet. No human remains were recovered."

November 1944 set the stage for the major offensives that would conclude the war in 1945, including the Battle of the

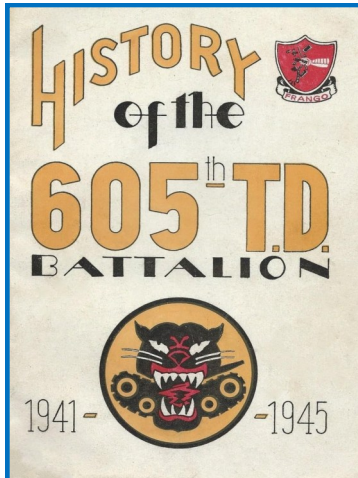
Bulge and the final campaigns to defeat Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

- ◆ **In November 1944** in the European theater, British and Canadian forces launched Operation Infatuate on November 1 to capture the port of Antwerp. The U.S. Seventh Army captured Nompatelize in France on November 2, and Allied forces concluded the Battle of the Scheldt on November 8, successfully opening the port of Antwerp. [For

map. go to <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/article/battle-of-the-scheldt-estuary/>]



Suggested Reading for Oct & Nov 2025



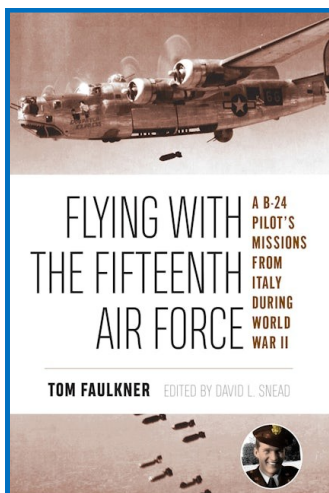
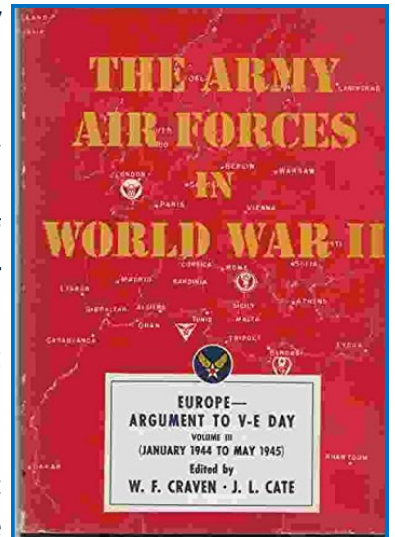
605th Tank Destroyer Battalion: Online resources include: 605th Tank Destroyer Battalion at <https://www.605tdb.com/journal> See also on Amazon: **History Of The 605th Tank Destroyer Battalion 1941-1945 Unit History** Paperback – December 1, 2023. This particular author's book only had three stars, so our speaker's book, *An American Unsung*, will no doubt be more engaging!

ARGUMENT to V-E Day, January 1944 to May 1945 by Wesley Frank Craven and James Lea Cate: This volume, part of the official Army Air Forces in World War II history, details Operation ARGUMENT (or "Big Week") in February 1944. It includes

accounts of the strategic bombing campaign against German fighter production, of which the Steyr factory was a key target. See also **Histories of the US Fifteenth Air Force (1983)**: Many of the raids on Steyr were carried out by the American Fifteenth Air Force, which operated from bases in Italy. Specific histories covering this command often include sections on the mission to bomb Steyr, such as articles from the Warfare History Network or accounts from veterans' groups. [Note, this book is 900+ pages. I recommend downloading the digital version from Internet Archive via this link: <https://archive.org/details/armyairforcesinw0001unse>] More information is also available at the National Museum of the United States Airforce:

go to <https://www.nationalmuseum.af.mil/Visit/Museum-Exhibits/Fact-Sheets/Display/Article/1519678/big-week-february-20-25-1944/#:~:text=In%20February%201944%2C%20the%20USAAF,the%20attack%20showing%20devastating%20damage> See also “**Digital newspaper archives:** Contemporary news reports, such as those

from *The New York Times*, documented the raids as they happened in 1944. These articles offer insight into the perception and reported results of the bombings at the time.”



If you wish to read more about the **15th Air Force**, try this book: *Flying with the Fifteenth Air Force: A B-24 Pilot's Missions from Italy during World War II* (published in 2018) Texas A&M University Press

Be sure to mark January 25, 2026 on your calendar for our Roundtable's first program in the new year!