



From the Desk of Roundtable President Paul "Ponytail" Cauley

April 2020 Issue No. 4 www.WWIIroundtable.com

President's Message

Dear Club members, Welcome to April. Throughout history there have been many memorable events in April such as.....

- 1860 Pony Express Service Starts
 - 1865 President Lincoln is shot
 - 1912 Titanic sinks on her maiden voyage
 - 1917 America enters World War I
- (continued p. 2)



History Topic by Dick "Ozzie" Osborne:
"The Amerika Bomber—Germany's B-29"

April 27th Program will be re-scheduled to a future date & May 19th Program is tentative



Stephen Baranyk, Speaker
"Firebombing of Japan"
75th Anniversary Remembrance

Hopefully our March and April speakers will be able to adjust their schedules so that our WWII Round Table attendees will have two wonderful programs to look forward to soon. However, the board continues to feel it is in the best interest of our veterans and members to move the events so as not to needlessly expose anyone to Covid-19, and then take it home to nursing homes or other loved ones.

INDIANAPOLIS
ERNE PYLE CHAPTER
WWII
ROUNDTABLE

WWIIroundtable.com
Where history comes alive!
Northside Knights of Columbus
2100 E 71st
Indianapolis, IN 46220

2020 DINNER PROGRAMS

January 27	5:00pm
February 24	\$10 Buffet
March 23	Program
April 27	6:00-8:00pm
May 19	
June 22	
July 27	
August 24	
September 28	
October 26	
November 23	
December 15	
January 25, 2021	
February 22, 2021	

2020 Membership Dues

Please pay Lucy Parker at June meeting

- ✚ Veteran \$20
- ✚ Non-Veteran \$25
- ✚ WW2 Veteran free membership

Announcement:

Gen. Goodwin, Director of the Indiana War Memorial at some point will speak briefly to our Round Table members about the 9/11 Memorial prior to one of our main programs. Let's have a great turnout for both gentlemen! **INFORMATION DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER May 11TH** send to editing committee c/o klerch@parktutor.org

- 1940 Germany invades Norway and Denmark
- 1942 The Japanese forced 75,000 soldiers on the Bataan Death March.
- 1945 Hitler Commits Suicide
- 1970 Apollo 13 Explosion
- 2009 The U.S. declares a public health emergency (Swine Flu)
- 2020 PonyTail Paul Retires from the WWII Roundtable and moves to Florida

Yes, you read correctly PonyTail and Valerie are retiring and moving to Pensacola Florida. I had informed the board of this at the March board meeting and I truly wanted to announce this to the club at a meeting. However due to the self-isolation we are all going through at this time, this seems to be the only way to let everyone know.

I will tell you this it was a very hard decision to make, Valerie and I have talked about doing this for quite some time and my sister has found the perfect home for us in Pensacola where she lives. Our new home sits right at the end of the main runway that "The Blue Angles" operate out of so we will be entertained a lot by them.

Dr. Charles Holt will be taking over as President and I know that he and the full board will continue to do a great job for you and the club.

Valerie and I will be back for visits for we still have family and friends here, so don't be surprised when we pop in for a meeting.

Valerie and I wish the best for each and every one of you and pray that you stay safe during this outbreak of the virus.

God Bless you and America, we will stay "STRONG".

PonyTail



Ernie Pyle, WWII Correspondent, KIA April 18, 1945

Contributed by Marlene Mendonsa

Ernie Pyle, the beloved WWII journalist, covered stories of the European and Pacific theaters. Ernie is remembered for his personalized versions of the common G.I. Pyle, the Pulitzer Prize journalist was well known for his intimate story telling of enlisted men because he was part of their daily lives, talking and eating with them as well as sharing their foxholes. Pyle wanted the American public to see and understand the sacrifices soldiers made during the grueling war. In April of 1945, the Indiana farm boy from Dana, Indiana arrived for his next assignment which would be in the South Pacific. Previously, Pyle had covered four years of the war in North Africa, Italy and France.

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In April of 1945, the Indiana farm boy from Dana, Indiana arrived for his next assignment which would be in the South Pacific. Previously, Pyle had covered four years of the war in North Africa, Italy and France. The Battle of Okinawa was ongoing at this time.

The Army's 77th Infantry Division landed on Ie Shima, a small island near Okinawa with a mission to capture an airfield. On April 18, 1945, Pyle accompanied three officers in a Jeep driving to a command post when they came under machine gun fire. The men were able to take cover. However, Pyle curiously raised his head to see if everyone was alright. Pyle was hit in his left temple by a .30-caliber bullet, killing him instantly. Sadly, the American foot soldier lost a good buddy. Ernie Pyle was 44 years-old at the time of his death. Pyle was initially buried among the soldiers on Ie Shima. In 1949, his body was re-interred to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl crater near Honolulu, Hawaii.



The Ernie Pyle WWII Museum located in Dana, Indiana honors the memory of their hometown son. The museum located approximately 100 miles west of Indianapolis is a small and yet exceptional institution. The museum houses artifacts from Ernie's time during the war as well as his childhood.



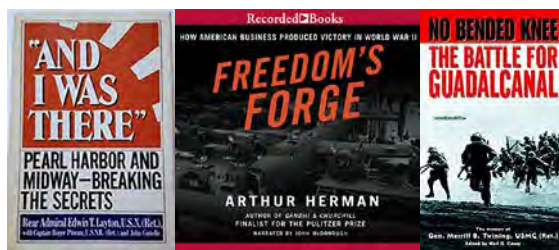
Well, it seems we are now stuck safely at home. On the bright side, this is the ideal time to read up on many interesting topics. You may not be out shopping at the bookstore, but through your public library, Amazon, Abe Books, or Powell's Bookstore there are some excellent resources. There is no reason not to indulge with eBooks or hardcopies. (See below)

Thanks also to Marlene Mendonsa for this list of books. The National Museum of WW2 in New Orleans recommends the following reading:

Rear Admiral Edwin T. Layton, *And I Was There: Breaking the Secrets – Pearl Harbor and Midway* (William Morrow & Company: 1985)

Arthur Herman, *Freedom's Forge: How American Business Produced Victory in World War II* (Random House: 2012) audio book available

Merrill B. Twining, *No Bended Knee: The Battle for Guadalcanal* (Presidio Press: 1997)



The Liberation Trilogies by Rick Atkinson, Henry Holt & Co. publisher

- An Army at Dawn: The War in North Africa, 1942-1943 (2002)
- The Day of Battle: The War in Sicily and Italy, 1943-1944 (2007)
- The Guns at Last Night: The War in Western Europe, 1944-1945 (2013)

For a change in pace, enjoy listening to an engaging audio book while driving or relaxing at home. I highly recommend the following two audio books:



Carlos Harrison, *The Ghosts of Hero Street: How One Small Mexican-American Community Gave So Much in World War II and Korea* (Tantor Media Inc.: 2014)



Erik Larson, *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* (Random House: 2015) Publisher: Side note: The narrator is actor, Scott Brick who reads with such reflection that one can almost see the events transform before one's eyes. Brick is highly engaging throughout the audio book.

Additional Areas of Interest

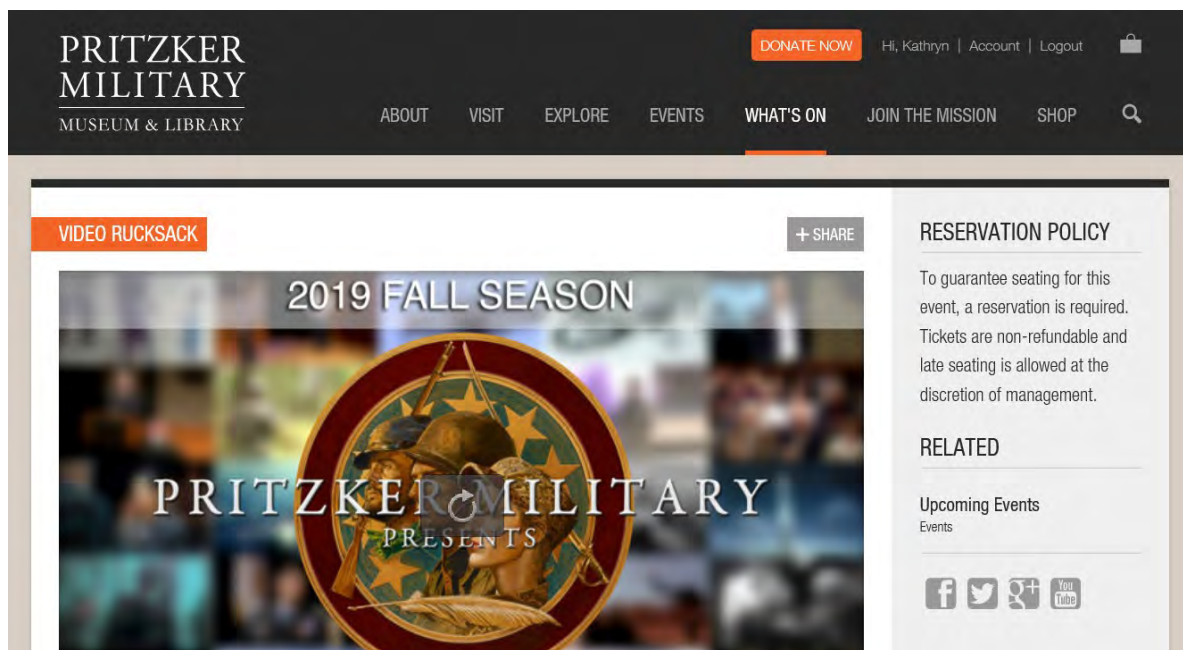
Webinars pertaining to various aspects of WWII are provided several times a week on the websites or Facebook pages of the Pritzker Military Museum and Library as well as the National World War II Museum. In addition, many of the programs are archived and are free and accessible to the public without a membership. This is a great way to learn additional information and break up your day of staying in the safe confines of your home.

Please also check out the following websites for two fabulous museums:

- Pritzker Military Museum and Library Website: www.Pritzkermilitary.org
- National WW2 Museum: www.Nationalww2museum.org

The Pritzker Military Museum & Library is open to the public and features an extensive collection of books, programs, artifacts, and rotating exhibits covering many eras and branches of the military. For more information about the Museum & Library located at 104 S. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL. If you join the Pritzker Military Museum as a member, you will have access to their videos of their speaker series, special events and other programming. If we were not confronted with a pandemic, this museum is worth a field trip, especially to attend special speaker events, tour their expansive library and artifact collections. If you go to this link, through Stitcher, you are able to listen to a number of recent podcasts from the Pritzker Museum:

<https://www.stitcher.com/podcast/pritzker-military-library-podcasts>



MUSEUM UPDATE

New Digital Museum Experience Starting Daily on Monday

We realize you can't come to visit us at the moment, so we're bringing The National WWII Museum experience to you in a way we've never done before.

March 27, 2020



<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/about-us/notes-museum/new-digital-museum-experience-starting-daily-monday>



Public Service Announcement to our WWII RT members:

Hi Guys, Denise and I wanted to see if you could spread the word. If anyone is stuck in their house (like all of them should be), we have vehicles and can provide grocery shopping or other needs until this thing blows over. Thanks Andy Fulks 317-796-1863

The following "tour" designed for schools was recently posted by the Pritzker Military Museum. Marlene reports she "spent a good part of Friday night studying the various aspects of D Day along with listening to two veterans' oral histories. All in all, it was a nice way to spend an evening."

Take a (Virtual) Tour of the Pritzker Military Museum & Library!

The Pritzker Military Museum & Library is a resource for all those looking to better understand the past, present and future of military history. Our mission to preserve and protect the stories of our citizen soldiers continues, even while our doors are closed during this time.

In an effort to continue supporting our community and those at home, we would like to offer you . . . a Virtual Tour of our current or past exhibits. Our staff of historians, researchers, and curators are here to be a resource to you . . . during this time. Our exhibits are on the following subjects and time periods:

- **The End of WWII:** [The Allied Race To Victory](#)
- **D-Day:** [D-Day +75](#)
- **American in WWI:** [Lest We Forget](#)
- **The Vietnam War:** [Faces Of War: Documenting The Vietnam War From The Front Lines](#) & [Hunting Charlie: America in the Vietnam War](#)

PREVIEW OF FUTURE 2020 PROGRAM

Dr. Gilbert Herod My Two Years as a Surgeon in Vietnam



Dr. Gilbert Herod retired as a cardiovascular thoracic surgeon at Methodist Hospital.

Graduated from Broad Ripple High School 1954 and Butler University 1957, followed by Western Reserve (Now "Case Western Reserve") Medical School 1961. Completed General Surgery Residency Methodist Hospital 1966
Medical Officer in Charge- Da Nang Civil Hospital 1966-1967
Chief of Surgery Hue Hospital 1968

Completed Thoracic Surgery Residency University of Michigan Medical Center
Board Certified by American Board of Surgery and American Board of Thoracic Surgery
Designated "Gold Life Master" by the American Contract Bridge League
(Past) President of Methodist Hospital Medical Staff

Da Nang Civil Hospital [AMA American Journal of Ethics]



In the mid-1960s, every doctor below the age of 35 was faced with military service. Instead of joining the military for a war he did not believe in, Gil's brother suggested serving in Vietnamese civilian hospitals. This substituted for the two-year military obligation and served a valid need. After completing his residency at Methodist, he started working at the Da Nang Civil Hospital.

The staff was only three or four American doctors as the Vietnamese physicians were in the military. Conditions at the hospital were very poor with minimal staff and minimal supplies. Occasionally they received outdated blood from a US Military facility. In addition, the staff had to deal with all injuries without specialists.

He worked closely with students from the Hue Medical School, which they considered to be the Harvard of the East.

Ideas for more reading: 1) Patricia Rushton, *Vietnam War Nurses: Personal Accounts of 18 Americans* 2) Paul J. Pitlyk, *Blood on China Beach: My Story as a Brain Surgeon in Vietnam*; 3) Eugene H Eisman MD, *Bitter Medicine, A Doctor's Year in Vietnam*, 4) Mark Bowden, *Hue 1968*

