



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

August 2022 Newsletter www.WWIIroundtable.com

I'm always amazed with the speakers we find/that find us/are suggested by you/are among us. The board members work diligently for YOU to try and find those with the most interesting stories and then help them hone their presentation/power point and assist them in actually getting to the Roundtable and back home. All of this requires a lot of work. Some who make speaker suggestions, but then the topic doesn't seem to fit our group and then the board & I have to deal with their disappointment. Alas, nothing is easy and continue to support our little organization as best as you can and advertise us!

Charles Allen Holt, D.O.

August 22, 2022, 7:00 PM In-Person Only

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

7:00: Trivia Report by Scott Green "Operation Passage to Freedom"



Paris, France - March 1945

7:15 Program

**Interview with Norman Farley,
WW2 Veteran**

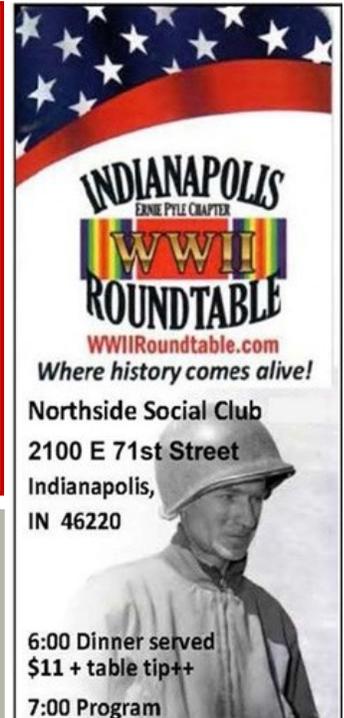
"B-26 Tail Gunner in Europe"

344th Bomb Group,

Ninth Air Force

England-France-Belgium

Moderator: Karl Kleinbub



Northside Social Club

2100 E 71st Street

Indianapolis,
IN 46220

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

7:00 Program

Round Table Board

Chuck Holt, President

William Ervin, 1st VP

Kathryn Lerch, 2nd VP

Treasurer, Lucy Parker

Asst Treas., Richard Eisgruber

Meeting Arrangements: Karl &
Jan Kleinbub

At Large: Brad Damon, Travis
Petrie and Marlene Mendonsa

Web/Audio/Visual: Travis Pe-
trie & a volunteer

Regular Monthly Dinner \$11++ Join us in person if you are able! Be sure to send your RSVP to Karl Kleinbub ASAP: knj1002@myninestar.net or phone 317- 607- 6948. **no later than Aug 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



Dick 'Ozzie' Osborne
Author & Historian

WW 2 TRIVIA FOR AUGUST 2022

◆ To the Rhine River: Soon after the war in Europe erupted, President Roosevelt extended the “American Security Zone” deeper into the Atlantic Ocean. This zone was the area in which the U.S. government declared that American warships and aircraft had a right to patrol to insure the security of America. Sometime later, Roosevelt was interviewed by news correspondents in the oval office and was asked how much further the Zone might be extended. He replied that it would be extended as far east as American interests required. One of the correspondents quipped that that might be the Rhine River. Roosevelt laughed and replied that he was talking only of salt water. Source: “Time-Life Time Capsule—1939”

◆ Club Mobiles: As the Allied forces advanced into France from Normandy, they were followed by Club Mobiles. These were specially designed two-and-a-half ton General Motor trucks, staffed with Red



Cross personnel and loaded with goodies for the troops: coffee, pastries, cigarettes, chewing gum, stationery, books, razors and other accoutrements. Doughnuts were their specialty and could be cooked in their trucks. The Club mobiles were financed primarily by service clubs in Britain. In an emergency, they could be used as ambulances.

Source: “Dunant’s Dream: War, Switzerland and the History of the Red Cross,” by Caroline Moorehead. Photo: <https://history.delaware.gov/ww-ii-donut-dollies-the-american-red-cross/>

◆ England Sinking: By 1944, so many American troops and so much equipment were in England, a saying emerged “The only reason England doesn’t sink into the sea is because it’s held up by barrage balloons.” Source: “Life’s Pictorial History of World War II” Photo: findmypast.com



◆ “You’re in the Army now!”: British pilots and air crews operating in the desert areas of Africa were issued army boots to use in case they were forced down and had to walk long distances in the hot and abrasive desert sand. Source: “The Gathering of Eagles: The Campaigns of the South African Air Force in Italian East Africa June 1940-November 1941”



WW2 Veteran is Featured Guest August 22, 2022

STATIONS



Station	Location	Date
Based	Stansted Mountfitchet	19 February 1944 – 30 September 1944
Based	Cormeilles-en-Vexin, France	30 September 1944 – 5 April 1945
Based	Florennes / Juzaine	5 April 1945



Norman Farley was in the 344th Bomb Group, 9th US Air Force. His unit was posted initially to the United States Army Air Forces Station 169 located on farmland in the parish of Stansted Mountfitchet, some 3km (2 miles) north east of the town of Bishop's Stortford in Hertfordshire, although the airfield was in Essex. The station ultimately had three runways plus 50 aircraft hard-standings. Hangars, workshops, offices and accommodation for 2,658 personnel, mainly Nissen huts, were also built on site.

The 344th Bomb Group moved in with their Martin B-26 Marauder twin-engine tactical bombers. This Group led attacks on D-Day, and won a Distinguished Unit Citation for its missions supporting the advancing Allied armies.

After D-Day and as German forces were pushed back, the 344th left Stansted for France in September 1944, where their next location was Cormeilles-en-Vexin. A month before the end of the war in April 1945, the 344th moved to Belgium. Farley arrived in England in November 1944. For more information on the 344th go to:

<https://www.americanairmuseum.com/unit/288> See also page 4

You do not want to miss our upcoming WWII RT programs . . .

September Trivia & Program

Trivia: Bill Ervin: "Identifying the Dead from D-Day & Normandy"

Program: Joe Lee "Forgiveness: The Story of Eva Kor, Survivor of the Auschwitz Twin Experiments" A Graphic Biography

Please remember, your RSVP is essential to ensure that the kitchen has a dinner for you!



Selection of photographs from the 344th Bomb Group website:



Three B-26 Marauders of the 344th Bomb Group practice airfield strafing over their own base at Cormeilles-en-Vexin. Image by Jack K Havener, 344th Bomb Group.. Associated caption: 'Practice strafing run over 497th Sqdn area by three ships element. Late in the war Marauders bombed regular target from medium altitude then broke up into three ship elements to dive down onto the deck and strafe anything German. Feb 1945.'



Above: A B-26 Marauder (K9-K, serial number 42-95892) of the 344th Bomb Group takes off at Mount Farm, England;

Left: Cologne Cathedral, in the midst of the bombed out city center in Cologne, photographed from the air by an airman of the 344th Bomb Group.

REMINDERS! The Board encourages our members to share suggestions for potential trivia speakers or featured speakers—we are continually looking for articulate presenters with engaging topics which will be of interest to our membership! Please reach out to Chuck Holt, Bill Ervin, or Kathryn Lerch Thank you!

Travel to Europe? If any of our WW2 RT members are interested in traveling to England/Normandy & possibly beyond in 2023, please get in touch with Kathryn Lerch—I hope to begin trip planning later this year for next summer. Hopefully airports and airlines will be functioning much better! klerch@parktudor.org or 317-251-8661 (landline)

REMINDER: 2022 WWII Round Table Dues are Payable Now

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

IN CASE YOU MISSED THIS NEWS . . .



A flotilla of landing craft heads for France. (Image source: WikiCommons)

WW2 Higgins Boat found . . . History of the boat—Go to this link:

<https://militaryhistorynow.com/2019/06/02/the-higgins-boat-9-fast-facts-about-the-d-day-landing-craft-that-changed-history/#:~:text=It%20began%20as%20a%20bayou,cargo%20through%20the%20Louisiana%20bayou>

U.S. & WORLD

World War II-era ship emerges in Lake Mead amid climate impacts

By Kyla Guilfoil



World War II-era ship emerges in Lake Mead amid climate impacts

A sunken WWII vessel has surfaced on Nevada's Lake Mead, the National Park Service said, as its waters continue to recede amid rising temperatures and drought.

The vessel, a Higgins boat used for beach landings during WWII, comes to the surface after the same receding waters have revealed multiple bodies, sunken pleasure boats and a myriad of previously submerged items.

“Prior to the LCPV, large-scale seaborne invasions were more difficult to mount. They usually required the bombardment and capture of large ports and harbours, which were often heavily fortified and well-defended. But thanks to the availability of small landing craft like the Higgins boat, whole armies could instead be deposited on any stretch of shoreline with relative speed. “

Go to this link for Lake Mead and Higgin boat information: <https://6abc.com/ww2-lake-mead-nevada-climate-change/12065070/>

Remembering Woody Williams . . .



For a lengthy interview with Williams, go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iV1Bq6NvVNQ>

See also recent news :

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqU505syJ1s> or

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDs1OhjcQ_w

Our Round Table was so fortunate to have him as a guest speaker. See link for photos: <https://www.wwiroundtable.com/woodrow--woody--williams.html>