



# From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

January & February 2023 Newsletter [www.WWIIroundtable.com](http://www.WWIIroundtable.com)

Happy NEW YEAR! I hope your Christmas/Hanukkah/other holidays events were enjoyable. The Roundtable Board and several helpers work diligently to 'keep calm and carry on' in efforts to present interesting historical programs. We always need YOUR help to keep our organization going ANOTHER 35 years! Financial: Become a member or renew membership. Make a donation. Perhaps you know someone/organization who might like to. We run on a shoestring! Get more members: I try to invite someone at least weekly. Bring them (always RSVP their meal—REMEMBER—we get the room for FREE because YOU buy your meal). Many organizations/museums/businesses (as you well know) died out during the COVID Pandemic—but NOT us! Volunteer: We can always use help finding/vetting/transporting/helping them put a presentation (continued p. 2)

**January 23 & February 27, 2023, 7:00 PM**

**Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Events & Social Club! Please RSVP**

**7:00: Trivia Presentation To be determined 7:15 Featured Program**

### January 23rd Program



**Ron May**

Ron May continues his important work in preserving World War II veteran stories. In his third volume Ron captures the stories of 25 people (17 veterans and 8 civilians) as they reflect on their World War II experiences. New in this volume are stories of the war's impact on five people who were children and young adults during the war years.

### February 27th Program



**Sgt. Major Robert Brown, US Marine Corps**

Interviewer, Karl Kleinbub

Robert Brown, born in Rushville, IN in 1927, enlisted in March 1945; he intended to go into the Merchant Marines, but by accident became a Marine. Post-WW2, he was a drill instructor in Korea as well as in Vietnam! This will be another exciting program!

**INDIANAPOLIS**  
ERNIE PYLE CHAPTER  
**WWII**  
ROUNDTABLE  
[WWIIroundtable.com](http://WWIIroundtable.com)

*Where history comes alive!*

**2023**  
**DINNER PROGRAMS**

|              |                             |
|--------------|-----------------------------|
| January 23   |                             |
| February 27  | Doors Open 5:00pm           |
| March 27     | Dinner \$11 6:00pm          |
| April 24     | Program 7:00pm              |
| May 22       |                             |
| June 26      |                             |
| July 24      | <i>Everyone is welcome!</i> |
| August 28    |                             |
| September 25 |                             |
| October 23   |                             |
| November 27  |                             |
| December 4   |                             |

North Side Events & Social Club  
2100 E. 71st Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46220

### Round Table Board

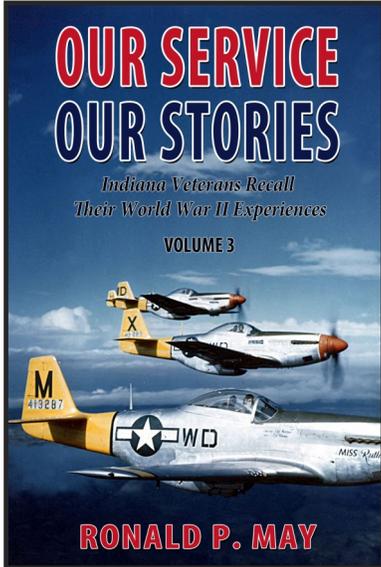
- Chuck Holt, President
- William Ervin, 1st VP
- Kathryn Lerch, 2nd VP
- Treasurer, Lucy Parker
- Asst Treas., Richard Eisgruber
- Meeting Arrangements: Karl & Jan Kleinbub
- At Large: Brad Damon, Travis Petrie, Marlene Mendonsa, & Steve Hogan

**Regular Monthly Dinner \$11++ Join us in person if you are able!** Be sure to send your RSVP to Karl Kleinbub ASAP: [knj1002@mytwinetars.net](mailto:knj1002@mytwinetars.net) or phone 317- 607- 6948. **no later than Thursday prior to Monday's program!** 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. 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.

## Upcoming January-February Programs

together/being a resource to future potential speakers. We can always use help doing various tasks at our meeting/ programs. Contact any of the Board members about helping. New ideas: Contact the Board members—we sometimes are so busy we can't see the forest for the trees. Don't forget to give me a piece of paper with your favorite WWII movie and book (your name optional and, yes, if you have several, that is O.K.). We will collate these and put them out for you all to peruse.

*Carol Ann Holt, D.O.*



Ron May will have his newest book available for purchase at our January dinner. If you wish to order this as well as his two earlier books directly, go to his web-site: <https://ronaldpmay.com/books/>

Sergeant Major Robert Brown, Rushville, Indiana "History in Your Own Backyard" As an introduction to our February speaker, be sure to visit this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Y8iMOxSVG0>

This is a thirteen minute interview with Brown. Truly a family committed to their community and national service—from firefighter father to dedicated Marine, etc.

FEBRUARY FEATURE!

The Roundtable has more great programs lined up from March through June!

Stay tuned!



Sergeant Major Robert Brown, Rushville, Indiana

### Reminder: Dues & Membership Records

In addition, our membership records are only as good as the information and updates provided to us! Therefore, if you have any changes (phone, email, mailing address) please note this below. Bring this slip to a dinner meeting or email Lucy and Karl. They update our membership database. **Dues are: Veteran Family \$20.00; Non-Veteran Family \$25.00; WWII Veterans/ widows FREE Membership** 'Thank you' if you paid your 2023 Dues! NOTE: If you recently paid dues or gave donations online with Paypal, our organization still needs contact information from you. PayPal does not provide this! Please email information requested below to: Lucy Parker and Karl Kleinbub. NOTE: We will be discontinuing PayPal as a payment provider on 12/31/2022! After January 1, 2023 our treasurer will accept cash or checks at the dinner made out to WW2 Round Table or checks mailed to our PO box: WWII Roundtable Post Office Box 1965, Noblesville, IN 46061

Print Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

WW2 Veteran?    Yes    No            If yes, branch & period of service \_\_\_\_\_

Please send any changes to your home address, phone number or email to Lucy Parker Luce30@att.net and Karl Kleinbub: <knj1002@myinestar.net>

**Note, those who have not renewed their membership by 1 FEB 2023, will be dropped from membership!**

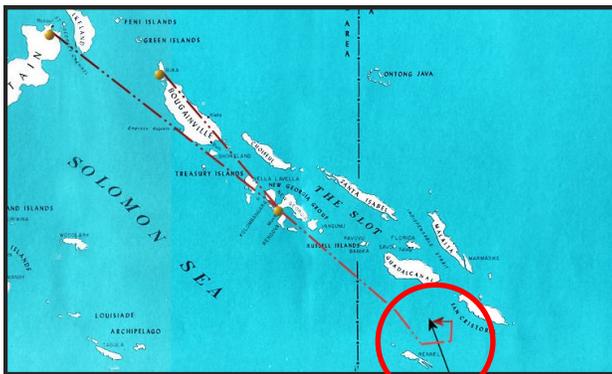


# WW 2 TRIVIA FOR January & February 2023

Inspired by Ozzie's earlier trivia reports . . . @ World War II Trivia: Richard Osborne, *Eighty Years ago!* . . . on January & February 1943 . . .

◆ **January 14:** The [Casablanca Conference](#) of Allied leaders begins. [Winston Churchill](#) and [Franklin D. Roosevelt](#) discuss the eventual invasion of mainland Europe, the impending invasion of Sicily and Italy, and the wisdom of the principle of "unconditional surrender".

◆ **January 18:** The [Jews](#) in the [Warsaw Ghetto](#) rise up for the first time, starting the [Warsaw Ghetto Uprising](#). [Image: <https://www.yadvashem.org/exhibitions/photographs-warsaw-ghetto/stroop-collection.html>] Map: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle\\_of\\_Rennell\\_Island#/media/File:RennellBattleMap.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Battle_of_Rennell_Island#/media/File:RennellBattleMap.jpg)]



◆ **January 29:** "The naval [battle of Rennell Island](#), near Guadalcanal, begins. The Japanese beat the Americans and the [USS Chicago](#) is lost."

A witness to the loss of the cruiser (CA-29) *USS Chicago* was 2c Petty Officer and radio electrician specialist, George W. Deckard who was serving on (DD-451) *USS Chevalier*. "Our group consisted of three destroyers and the cruiser *Chicago*. The enemy had at least two cruisers and several destroyers. Their attack came at night from the air. . . . My

battle station was in a little room on the main deck that housed the radar transmitters. The noise of the five five-inch guns and the "pom-pom" anti-aircraft guns was unbelievable. The firing was over after what seemed like a few minutes. After about an hour of quietness, the word came to secure and return to normal duties. It was then that we learned that the *Chicago* had taken a hit and was heavily damaged. One of the destroyers in our group was assigned to escort the *Chicago* back to base. Later it was learned that on their way the *Chicago* was attacked again and sunk. Most of the crew were saved by the escorting destroyer. . . . Ten months later, Deckard's own destroyer was sunk on the



night of October 6, during the Battle of Vella Lavella and he was rescued by the crew of (DD-450) *O'Bannon*. [*Words of War: Wartime Memories from the Civil War Through the Gulf War* (2001)]

◆ **February 13:** The battle was the first major engagement between U.S. and Axis forces in Africa. The American troops were numerically superior, but inexperienced and poorly led. The **Battle of Kasserine Pass** was a series of battles of the [Tunisian campaign](#) of [World War II](#) that took place in Febru-



Vemork plant: National Library of Norway, in Public Domain

ary 1943 at Kasserine Pass, a 2-mile-wide (3.2 km) gap in the Grand Dorsal chain of the [Atlas Mountains](#) in west central [Tunisia](#). **February 28:** [Operation Gunnarside](#): six Norwegians led by [Joachim Rønneberg](#) successfully attack the heavy water plant [Vemork](#). Between 1940 and 1944, a series of sabotage actions by the [Norwegian resistance movement](#) and Allied bombing ensured the destruction of the plant and the loss of its heavy water. These operations: code-named **Grouse**, **Freshman**, and **Gunnarside** — knocked the plant out of production in early 1943.