



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

July & August 2024 Newsletter

www.WWIIroundtable.com

Hello . . . Greetings! WOW! The 80th Anniversary of D-Day was remarkable and a blessing to the World. So VERY cool that one of our very own D-Day vets, Bob Pedigo, was there on international news and received, in person, the French Legion of Honor from President Macron (along with two kisses on his cheeks!). [See p. 4 of this newsletter.] At our June meeting he tearfully said it was the greatest moment in his life...he had NEVER actually set foot in France—only flew over it bombing targets there and in Germany as a bombardier! He said they used the Eifel Tower in Paris as a landmark and guide to some of their bombing runs. It is also SO wonderful to have at our dinner meetings Bob Begeman and Alex Rearick...our other two WWII veterans! So...YOU need to bring future members to our presentations and build up our membership—dues and donations are what keep us afloat! We need YOUNG history buffs to fill our room...reach out to your kids/grandkids/friends and tell them what a WONDERFUL event we have EVERY month but for December. ALSO! The Board and I and others work diligently to find/schedule/groom/assist with presentations our speakers. We need YOU to let us know of potential presenters—we can help them with PPP (Power Point Presentation) and tailor their talks to most prescient things that we need to know! Contact any of us—we are in constant need of leads, because it may require many months to fit them into our schedule. If they cannot present, WE can present on their behalf and help them. If we are to retain our country's knowledge of WWII, it requires due diligence, on all of us, to educate each generation or we will SURELY repeat history's horrors!



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! 7:15 Featured Program



Jeremy C. Holm

WW2 airborne historian & author

"Liberation of Los Baños in the
Philippine Islands in WW2"

Summer Programs

July 22 and August 26, 2024

Round Table Member

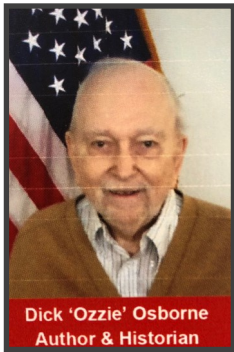
Brad Damon

"Louis Edward Curdes"
Indiana Flying Ace of WW1

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, &
Steve Hogan
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@mytwinetstar.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!



WW 2 Trivia for July & August 2024

Inspired by Ozzie's earlier trivia reports . . .

Eighty Years ago! . . . in July & August 1944

See source: <https://onwar.com/wwii/chronology/194407.html>

- ◆ **On this Day . . . Thursday, July 6, 1944** *On the Eastern Front...* Soviet forces of 1st Belorussian Front capture Kovel, 70 east of Lublin. German forces are retreating. Southwest of Minsk, Svir is captured.
- ◆ *From Berlin...* It is announced the Field Marshal Kluge has replaced Field Marshal Rundstedt as Commander in Chief West.
- ◆ *In Italy...* Elements of British 8th Army advance. The Polish 3rd Division (part of Polish 2nd Corps) captures Osemo, south of Ancona, on the Adriatic. German forces are conducting a gradual withdrawal, from river line to river line.
- ◆ **On this day . . . Sunday, July 9, 1944**
- ◆ *On the Western Front...* Forces of British 2nd Army penetrate Caen. Forces of Canadian 3rd Division and British 1st Division capture most of the city north of the Orne River. Canadian forces also take Carpiquet Airfield. The US 1st Army continues attacks toward St. Lo.
- ◆ *In Italy...* Elements of US 5th Army advance. The US 88th Division captures Volterra and elements of the French Expeditionary Corps reach Poggibonsi.
- ◆ **On this day . . . Tuesday, July 11, 1944**
- ◆ *On the Western Front...* German forces counterattack the US 1st Army. The German Panzerlehr Division spearheads the assault against US 9th Division southwest of St. Jean de Daye. US forces hold. The British 2nd Army continues a slow advance. The 8th Corps captures Hill 112, southwest of Caen. Naval gunfire supports operations around the city.
- ◆ *On the Eastern Front...* Other Soviet forces eliminate German resistance east of Minsk.
- ◆ *In Washington...* President Roosevelt announces that the US will recognize the French Provisional Government, led by de Gaulle, as the de facto authority for the civil administration of liberated territory in France. Roosevelt also tells a press conference that he will run for president again if the Democratic Party nominates him.
- ◆ **On this day . . . Monday, July 17, 1944**
- ◆ *In Occupied France...* German Field Marshal Rommel is severely wounded in a strafing attack on his staff car by an Allied fighter aircraft. Rommel was returning to his headquarters from an inspection tour.
- ◆ *From Berlin...* Field Marshal Kluge assumes temporary command of Army Group B (Rommel).
- ◆ *On the Western Front...* Forces of US 1st Army penetrate into the town of St. Lo.
- ◆ *In Occupied Norway...* The British carriers Formidable, Indefatigable and Furious escorted by the battleship Duke of York launch air attacks against German battleship Tirpitz at anchor at Kaafjord. The incoming strike is detected and a smoke screen effectively conceals the target.
- ◆ **On this day . . . Thursday, July 20, 1944** *In Germany...* Shortly after noon, a bomb explodes in the conference room at Hitler's headquarters at Rastenburg, in East Prussia. The bomb was planted by Colonel Count von Stauffenberg. The conspirators include General Beck, Carl Gerdeler, Field Marshal Witzleben and General Halder. Most of them are either aristocrats or Roman Catholics. Many others know about the plot, including Rommel, Kluge and Canaris. After it becomes clear that Hitler has survived the plot falls apart. Several of the leading participants, including Stauffenberg, are arrested and shot in Berlin by the end of the day.
- ◆ **On this day . . . Tuesday, July 25, 1944 . . .** *On the Western Front...* The US 1st Army begins "Operation Cobra". The main attack is made west of St. Lo by the US 7th Corps with 8th Corps on the right flank and 13th Corps on the left flank. A massive bombardment precedes the assault. More than 3000 planes are involved, including 1500 heavy bombers of the US 8th Air Force. Some American casualties result from the bombers releasing their loads short of their target. Regardless,

Trivia for July & August 2024 (cont.)

the American forces make good progress. Attacks by the British 2nd Army around Caen have drawn away German armored forces and reserves. To the south of Caen, Canadian troops are attacking along the road to Falaise but meet heavy German resistance.

- ◆ *On the Eastern Front* . . . Soviet forces penetrate Lvov and partially surround it.
- ◆ **On this Day . . . August, 1** *On the Western Front* . . . The US 3rd Army (General Patton) becomes operational on the right flank and is tasked with clearing Brittany. American forces are now organized under US 12th Army Group (Bradley) and include US 1st Army (Hodges) as well as 3rd Army. Field Marshal Montgomery retains overall command of Allied ground forces and General Eisenhower remains Commander in Chief of the Allied Expeditionary Forces.
- ◆ **Sunday, August 6, 1944** *On the Western Front* . . . Elements of US 12th Army Group continue advancing. The US 3rd Army advances in Brittany. The US 4th Armored Division (part of US 8th Corps) approaches Lorient. Forces of US 15th Corps capture Laval and advance toward Le Mans. Elements of US 1st Army capture Vire.
- ◆ *In Italy*. . . Elements of British 8th Army cross the Arno River within Florence.
- ◆ **Monday, August 7, 1944** . . . *On the Western Front* . . . German forces begin a significant counterattack from east of Mortain, opposite US 1st Army (between US 7th and 14th Corps). Elements of German 2nd and 116th Panzer Divisions spearhead the offensive. Mortain is recaptured. Heavy Allied air attacks prevent more significant advances by the German forces.
- ◆ **Saturday, August 12, 1944** . . . *In Liberated France* . . . The first PLUTO (Pipe Line Under The Ocean) becomes opera-

tional carrying fuel from the Isle of Wight to Cherbourg.

- ◆ **Tuesday, August 15, 1944** *In Southern France* . . . Allied forces launch a secondary invasion of France (Operation Dragoon, formerly Anvil) between Toulon and Cannes. Most of the initial assaults are carried out by forces of US 6th Corps (Truscott) as part of US 7th Army (Patch). Also included in the initial landings are French commandos. Three American divisions come ashore in the first wave at three beaches: Alpha Beach (US 3rd Division) on the left flank; Delta Beach (US 45th Division); and, Camel Beach (US 36 Division) on the right flank.
- ◆ **Friday, August 18, 1944** *On the Western Front* . . . The Falaise gap is closed by a link up of Polish and American troops at Chambois. Considerable German forces remain trapped to the west. To the south, patrols from US 3rd Army reach Versailles as the army advances toward the Seine River..
- ◆ **Saturday, August 19, 1944** *In Occupied France* . . . In Paris French resistance members begin an open rebellion against German occupation forces.
- ◆ **Sunday, August 20, 1944** *On the Western Front* . . . During the night, the last elements of German Armies to escape the Falaise pocket. Some 70-80 miles to the east, the US 3rd Army captures crossings over the Seine River 30 miles west of Paris. To the southwest of Paris, the US 20th Corps enters Fontainebleau.
- ◆ *In Occupied France* . . . Marshal Petain is arrested by Germans in Vichy for refusing to go to an area safe from the Allied advance. The French resistance forces (FFI) claim to control 8 departments. *In Liberated France*, General de Gaulle arrives.

Please send us suggestions for future programs!

Discounted "Early Bird" Annual Dues Accepted now for 2025

Veterans \$18.00; Non-Veterans \$20.00. After Jan 1, 2025 regular dues rise to \$20 and \$25 respectively.

WWII Veterans/widows FREE Membership

Please mail your check to: WW II 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 _____

As a courtesy to others, remember with rising number of viruses or flu-bugs, 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!



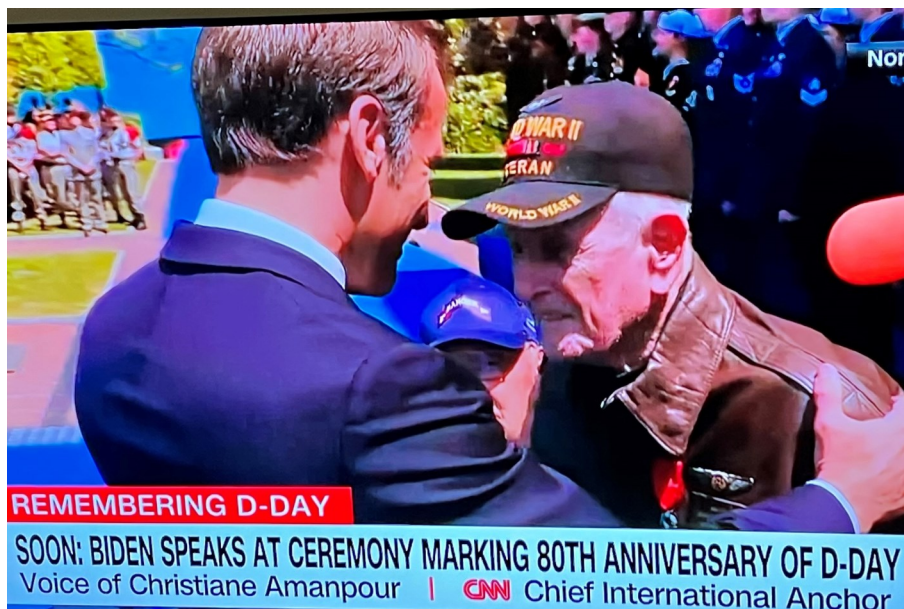
Book Recommendation:

Down From Heaven . . . Vol 1 & 2

Biography information on Jeremy Holm: “Author & American athlete Jeremy C. Holm has spent over half his life in the fast-paced winter sport of bobsled, including as the Head Coach for the US Adaptive Bobsled Team. He has a degree in Journalism and is pursuing a degree in Military History at the

American Military University. In addition to motivational speaking and corporate appearances around the world, Jeremy is the author of three books and spends his time camping, hiking, writing and trying to make history, one day at a time.

To purchase one of his books online, go to: <https://jeremyholmstore.square.site/11th-airborne-division-store>



Our Round Table greeted our WW2 member, Robert Pedigo, when he returned from the WWII 80th Anniversary Commemoration in France which took place on June 6, 2024. Words of thanks and ‘You set us free’ were spoken by French President Macron as he presented Bob with the French Legion of Honor medal on the steps of the Colleville-sur-Mer memorial.

Live coverage by CNN was spectacular! Bob reported at our Indianapolis Round Table in late June, this was one of the most memorable events of his life! [And certainly not as terrifying as being a nose-gunner on a B-24 on D-Day, eighty years ago!] This was also his first time ever to step onto French soil, because he had only seen France from the air in 1944.



For those D-Day arm-chair historians . . . Or for those fortunate to have traveled to Normandy and the D-Day beaches, included here is a Selected Bibliography.

Recommended Reading List for D-Day

Since this list is extensive, an * indicates highly recommended

- *Atkinson, Rick *Guns at Last Light: The War in Western Europe, 1944-1945 (Liberation Trilogy)* (2013)
- Badsey, Stephen *Utah Beach [Battle Zone Normandy Series]* (2004)
- *Balkoski, Joseph *Utah Beach: The Landing and Airborne Operations on D-Day, June 6, 1944* (2005)
- Bernage, Georges *Normandy 6 June 1944 – 100 Pictures* (2000)
- *Brinkley, Douglas *The Boys of Pointe du Hoc: Ronald Reagan, D-Day, and the US Army 2nd Ranger Battalion* (2005)
- Eckhertz, Holger *D-Day Through German Eyes* (books one and two in one volume) (2016)
- Orville & Warren, Ben Castaire *Les Plages du Débarquement en Normandie [An Aerial View of the Normandy Landings]* (2007)
- Courtney, PFC Richard D. *Normandy to the Bulge: An American Infantry GI in Europe During World War II* [Indiana veteran]
- Garrett, Leah *X Troop: The Secret Jewish Commandos of World War II* (2021)
- Gawne, Jonathan *Spearheading D-Day: American Special Units, 6 June 1944* (2011)
- Gildea, Robert *Marianne in Chains: Daily Life in the Heart of France During the Occupation* (2004)
- Going, Chris and Alun Jones *D-Day Lost Evidence* (2004)
- Harrison, Gordon A. *Cross Channel Attack* (2003) pdf available online
- Hesketh, Roger *Fortitude: The D-Day Deception Campaign*
- Holmes, Richard *D-Day Experience from the Invasion to the Liberation of Paris* (2004)
- Howarth, *Dawn of D-Day These Men Were There, June 6, 1944* (2008)
- Hoyt, Edwin Palmer *Invasion before Normandy: The Secret Battle of Slapton Sands* (1988)
- Keeney, L. Douglas *Day of Destiny* (1998)
- Kemp, Anthony *Discoveries: D-Day* (told from both German and Allied points of view)
- *Kershaw, Robert *Landing on the Edge of Eternity* (2018)
- Lambert, Ray *Every Man A Hero: A Memoir of D-Day*
- Lerch, Kathryn W. *"Dear Stellie" A Field Surgeon's World War II Letters Major Pierce W. Powers 4th Surgical Group* [local author] [information available: <http://www.parktudor.org/legacy>]
- *Lewis, Adrian R. *Omaha Beach: A Flawed Victory* (2001) [it is amazing it succeeded considering the problems identified by Lewis]
- *McGriff, E Carver *Making Sense of Normandy: A Young Man's Journey of Faith and War* (2007) [Indianapolis veteran]
- Penrose, Jane [ed.] *The D-Day Companion : Leading historians explore history's greatest amphibious assault* (2003)
- *Pogue, Forrest C. *Pogue's War : Diaries of a WWII Combat Historian* (2006)
- Shilleto, Carl *Utah Beach St Mere Eglise* (2007)
- Small, Ken *Forgotten Dead [Slapton Sands disaster]* (2004)
- Stafford, David *Ten Days to D-Day: Citizens and Soldiers on the Eve of the Invasion* (2004) English perspective

Selected Bibliography (Continued)

Trew, Simon *Battle for Caen (Battle Zone Normandy)*

Weingartner, Steven (ed.) *Greatest Thing We Have Ever Attempted: Historical Perspectives on the Normandy Campaign* (Cantigny Military History Series) (1998)

*Wilson, George. *If You Survive: From Normandy to the Battle of the Bulge to the End of WW2, One American Officer's Riveting True Story* (1987) [required reading at West Point]

*Winters, Dick and Cole Kingseed *Beyond Band of Brothers: The War Memoirs of Major Dick Winters* (2008)

Osprey Publishing: *D-Day Companion* [published to commemorate the 60th anniversary of D-Day] 2004

Online, DVD or TV Viewing

Band of Brothers series (1999)

World at War (1973) The BBC 26 episode series, produced in collaboration with the [Imperial War Museum](#), featured a mix of contemporary film footage from [the period](#) and film recreations. See this link for the period June-August 1944) <https://www.dailymotion.com/video/x3oeb6s>

438 Troop Carrier Group History: <https://www.afhra.af.mil/Portals/16/documents/Studies/101-150/AFD-090529-056.pdf> led by Major Clement Richardson

Operation Mincemeat (2021)

Dunkirk (2017)

[Photo: (left) map at Colleville-sur-Mer by K. Lerch; (right) colorized US Signal Corps photo in liberated town in Normandy, France (NARA)]

