



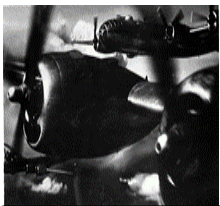
From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

June 2020 www.WWIIroundtable.com

Greetings to our members who have received WWII Round Table meeting notices via post card and all other members. This is your June newsletter with a bit more information and a special plea to help our organization do a better job of keeping our membership informed, involved, and committed. As you will notice on the newsletter banner, we have a new president, Dr. Charles Holt. We appreciate Pony Tail Cauley's many years of service and we know he is enjoying retirement and his new home in Pensacola, Florida—next to a beautiful bayou and the air station. This is a paradise well earned and he and Val will be missed at our monthly meetings, but he will return for occasional visits to the WWII RT.

Dr. Charles Holt has served on our board of directors and is active in service to our veterans. We are most appreciative that he was willing to step into the void. He is passionate about this fine organization. With a change in leadership, the board of directors has been meeting virtually and trying to (continued on p. 2)

March Program Re-scheduled Virtually on June 22, 2020, 7:00 PM



Stephen Baranyk, Speaker

PowerPoint Program: "Firebombing of Japan"

A 75th Anniversary Remembrance (See Page 4 excerpt from Feb. Newsletter)

The WWII RT Board is very pleased that our March speaker is able to adjust his schedule and he is willing to present via Zoom. Thanks go also to Charlie Russell for his technical know-how. We hope you are pleased with the technical results and will be able to join us. All members will be sent via email a link to the virtual Zoom meeting prior to June 22.

Future Meetings Announcement

All in-person dinner programs are cancelled until the Covid-19 pandemic is behind us. Therefore, the board has decided to stream monthly programs via Zoom to our members in their homes. Let us know if you have a computer, as receiving a post card/paper newsletter is redundant. This newsletter and our webpage will also keep you informed of changes.

INFORMATION DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER [July 12TH](#)

Please send to editing committee, Kathryn Lerch & Marlene Mendonsa: c/o klerch@parktudor.org

INDIANAPOLIS
ERNIE 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 6:00-8:00pm
April 27
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 when we meet in person TBD or on the front page of our website wwiiroundtable.com or by mailing a check to:
WWII Roundtable
PO Box 1965
Noblesville, IN 46061
*Veteran \$20
*Non-Veteran \$25
*WW2 Veteran free membership

adjust programs and how to connect to our membership in this challenging time. Therefore, we need to determine our membership's ability to connect via computer and Zoom membership meetings. With all the additional challenges for planning meetings and when we eventually "re-open", we need additional assistance from our membership. The current board is "swamped" and all good volunteer organizations look for new and/or interested members who might like to get more involved, but you may not have been "asked" and are just waiting for the opportunity.



Good news! **The WWII RT Needs You!** You may have attended one or more of our monthly dinners and thought: "How can I help?" "How can I get involved with the WWII Round Table?" Or, "How can I get to know or help some of our veterans?"

Assisting the board is a way to do this—and the commitment is one monthly meeting (the first Monday of the month) 5:30-6:30 at the Northside Social Club [or virtually for the time being]. Our organization needs assistance in a variety of ways and you may have just the talent that will be useful. Some assistance can be

done "virtually" from home or when we resume actual meetings—at the NSSC. When we do resume meeting at the North Side Social (formerly Knights of Columbus), we always need help with table set-up, collecting money for dinner tickets, greeting new members at the sign-in table, introducing new guests, serving vets from the buffet, etc. Our website needs some more content. If you have skills in this area and content to add, we would be most grateful! Do you have talent with finances? Lucy Parker, treasurer, could use assistance with our membership database, etc. Ideally, we would benefit from a potential board member who could chair the "**Membership Committee**" so that no one person is too burdened with a volunteer task. Thank you to Charlie Russell for two important job descriptions!

The WWII RT Membership Committee is to be staffed by members who realize the importance of enhancing membership participation. The committee is not limited in number. It is recommended that at least three current WWII RT members be assigned to this function. Their tasks are as follows:

Maintain a current list of World War II Round Table members. This list should include email, phone, address, service member or not, branch, time served with dates, spouse or husband's name, general interests and mobility needs.

Perform hosting duties as necessary. Greet members as they arrive, ask if anything is needed, seat preference, hearing issues and anything else needed. The goal is to make members welcomed. Some may be first time attendees. We need to embrace members with a kind word and acts of kindness.

Make efforts to attract new members. Such efforts may be to contact local education institutions such as colleges and high schools specifically history department for example to let them know the existence of the WWII Round Table. WWII RT newsletters can be sent via emails to these institutions easily.

The Membership Committee can develop and implement additional efforts to increased WWII RT memberships. As long as they are enjoying what they do.

For years, our members have enjoyed monthly programs—covering innumerable topics related to WWII and occasionally limited wars (Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan, etc.) There is a wealth of individuals who have stories to tell, experiences to share, and memories of important times in our history. Our programs appeal to a broad group—veterans and non-veterans, students, educators, spouses, etc. The WWII RT's mission is to promote this service to the community—whether in person or virtually!

Program Coordinator: The WWIIRT Program Coordinator is the principal point of contact for inviting, scheduling and supporting speakers at the WWIIRT meetings.

While all members of the RoundTable are encouraged to solicit possible speakers the Program Coordinator is the final decision maker. The PC has an expectation that referred speakers have relevant topics, are vetted at a reasonable level and are prepared to present. But anyone can discuss their possible speaker with the PC.

The PC will inform potential speakers about possible dates, meeting expectations and audio/visual equipment prior to scheduling a presentation date. Once an agreed date is set the PC is the only person who can change the scheduled speaker.

On the date of the WWIIRT meeting the individual who referred the speaker will arrive at the meeting ahead of the speaker in order to greet them when they arrive. Once they arrive the referring individual will escort them to the reserved table for the speaker and any guests. The referring individual will introduce the speaker to the PC and the Audio/Visual staff to address any issues the speaker may have. It is important to any speaker to realize that the group has their presentation's needs managed so that they can enjoy their meal and evening.

The Program Coordinator will have several WWIIRT members supporting them in direct and indirect ways in order to enhance the meeting's impact on our attendees. It is everyone's job to make the PC shine and have speakers who want to come back.

Would you rather volunteer for something smaller? Then join the **Program Committee** . . . especially if you are willing to share ideas for interesting topics. Do you know individuals in the community who might be willing to speak to our group? Or, consider recording our speakers via iPhone during their presentation. We have recorded many of the programs over the years and some of been included on our website.

WWII Roundtable Virtual Meeting/Program in June

The Indianapolis WWII Roundtable will be making history this month by hosting our very first online virtual program meeting. Do you have an iPad, iPhone, android or computer? If so, do "zoom" with the WWIIRT! All you need to do is click on our Zoom Meeting link that will be sent to you by an email announcement. It is also possible to join our meeting through a cell phone and regular phone line. Charlie Russell is our Zoom Meeting Organizer/Moderator. He will help if you have questions on logging on or calling in to the meeting and can be reached at charlieru@aol.com.

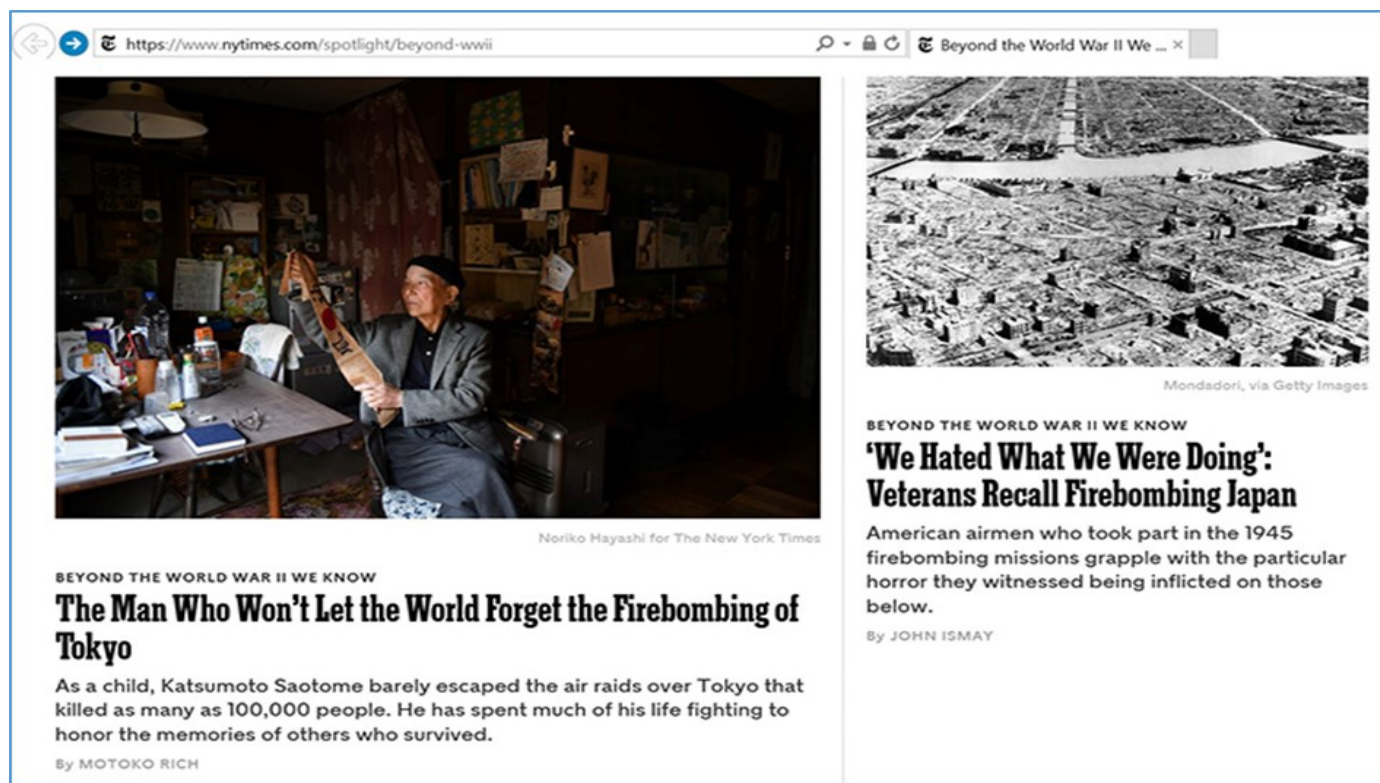
There is a "silver lining" in the cloud . . . Now potentially all our members, whether in a care center or confined to home, will be able to stay connected and able to participate in our programs and activities through technology. Schools have distance e-learning which has been a good substitute for in-person activities, so too for our WWII Round Table! Look for instructions by email to join our June Program soon. We are looking forward to having you join us on June 22nd at 7:00pm — although your dinner is up to you!

To wrap up this newsletter, here is a reprisal of the notice earlier in March for Steve Baranyk's talk on the Fire-bombing of Japan. We are hopeful that you will be able to join us via Zoom on June 22 from 7-8:00 PM. Send Charlie Russell an email if have any questions about joining our Zoom Program.

Also, if you wish to express an interest in assisting the WWII RT, please send an email to any of these board members and we will forward to President Charles Holt and appropriate board members. We value your enthusiasm and interest in our organization! We'll get through this together!

Charles Russell (re programs): charlieru@aol.com or **Lucy Parker** (re membership & financial assistance): lucee30@att.net or **Kathryn Lerch** (re website update, newsletter): klerch@parktudor.org

Recent articles relating to Firebombing of Japan: <https://www.nytimes.com/spotlight/beyond-wwii>



https://www.nytimes.com/spotlight/beyond-wwii

Beyond the World War II We Know

The Man Who Won't Let the World Forget the Firebombing of Tokyo

Noriko Hayashi for The New York Times

As a child, Katsumoto Saotome barely escaped the air raids over Tokyo that killed as many as 100,000 people. He has spent much of his life fighting to honor the memories of others who survived.

By MOTOKO RICH

Beyond the World War II We Know

'We Hated What We Were Doing': Veterans Recall Firebombing Japan

American airmen who took part in the 1945 firebombing missions grapple with the particular horror they witnessed being inflicted on those below.

By JOHN ISMAY



On March 9, 2020 The *NY Times* reported on a conversation with *four former B-29 bomber crew members who participated in the fire-bombings of Japan in spring 1945.* Go to the link above for the complete articles.

Excerpt from article:

Richard Gross, 95 Mercer Island, Wash. First Lieutenant, 874th Bomb Squadron, 498th Bomb Group "On Saipan, I was in Quonset hut barracks with another crew. And that crew was chosen as the lead crew on the first firebomb mission. The crew members were brought in and asked if they objected to firebombing the cities of Japan. A number of people raised their hands. But the order came down: "Well, that's your opinion, but the orders are you're going to go on the mission." I guess they could have declined, but I don't know if any did. This was the first information people had that we were going to be bombing the cities.