



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

Sept & Oct 2023 Newsletter www.WWIIroundtable.com

Greetings! Summer/Fall—an interesting time, when kids go from summer break back to school and their parents are relieved. I hope you visited the Indiana State Fair—I did and it was hopping—I saw STYX live. Also, if you have never gone, be sure and check out the Indianapolis Public Library's quarterly book sale. It is huge with new/donated/recalled books with rack after rack about everything BUT especially military history. I meet vets & history buffs every time I go and the prices are dirt cheap. We always welcome your help and support of our Roundtable—especially your expertise regarding suggestions for our website and programs. Thank you for helping our disabled attendees with the serving line and recommending potential speakers. If you are a Vietnam War era vet, contact VetsGift.com or WHVV.org about how to help/get a copy with its CD and let other vets know about it.

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September 25 & October 23, 2023, 7:00 PM

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

7:00: Trivia Presentation 7:15 Featured Program

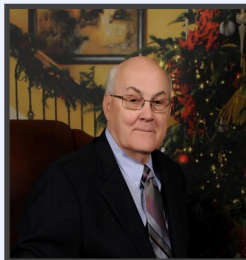
September 25th Program

Karl Kleinbub & Steve Hogan



**History of Lukas-Harold
WW2 and Beyond**

October 23rd Program



**Ron Darrah
Roundtable Member
& Participant
in Operation
DOUBLE TROUBLE**

**The First Composite Air Strike Force
& Lebanon in 1958**



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 | |
| August 28 | |
| September 25 | |
| October 23 | |
| November 27 | |
| December 4 | Not meeting |

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

Everyone is welcome!

Roundtable Board

Charles A. Holt, President
William Ervin, 1st VP
Kathryn Lerch, 2nd VP
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 Fall dinner RSVPs for to Karl Kleinbub: knj1002@mytnt.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!

We continue to welcome your support of our Roundtable. . . Please let a member of our board or me know if you wish to help. We have built a great tradition since 1987! Donors in the past have helped fund printing for our tri-fold brochures and bookmarks, as well as our stunning challenge coins. We have plans in place to print a new supply of tri-folds, bookmarks, as well as our popular challenge coin. The latter is not inexpensive, and as such, it is a very special gift for our guest presenters and WW2 veterans. Won't you please consider helping fund our new supply of challenge coins? The coins are always available for purchase by our members. Remember, our Roundtable is solely funded by your membership dues and your generous donations. Please let us know of anyone who might want to make a donation, as well as recommendations for potential presenters and programs. Our board members are happy to present on a topic/on behalf of someone, but we need lead time to review the program, get it scheduled, and if need be, design a PowerPoint presentation. This is not an easy process without help!

Also, the book: *Vietnam War 50th Commemoration, A Time To Honor* is wonderful. If you are a Vietnam War era vet, contact VetsGift.com or WHVV.org about how to help/get a copy with its CD and let other vets know about it.

Charles Allen Holt, D.O.

Preview of Our Fall Programs

Join the Roundtable in **September** to learn much more about the Lukus-Harold Company and its connection to WWII and beyond, especially its various iterations as it progressed through the US Government and different departments of the Navy. Karl Kleinbub and Steve Hogan are very knowledgeable about this unique company and they will present some very interesting facts about how Lukus-Harold played an important role in WW2 with the Norden Bombsite and later. In 1942, the corporation had its principal office and place of business in Indianapolis, Indiana, where "it is engaged in the manufacture of fire control equipment for the United States Government under Management Service' contracts with the United States Navy Department." Curious? Find out more on Sept. 25! In **October** you will not want to miss a detail-packed program by another longtime member of our Roundtable, Ron Darrah, who will relate his experiences with a special Air Force operation to Beirut, Lebanon. Learn why a mission called "Double Trouble" was hastily deployed to Adana, Turkey, in 1958. Hear Ron's story about this most unusual mission.

News Flash! Special Event for Veterans & Friends

Bicentennial event in Home Place—the Military History Library, 10801 N. College Ave. On Sunday, November 19 from 1100-1500. There will be no presentation or anything formal. It would just be wonderful to have you present to meet and greet anyone who would like to see our tiny collection and speak to "the real deal" —you. Also, the day before, on Saturday, November 18, our annual holiday decorating takes place and we are inviting the public to join us. We decorate our little cemetery located on 106th St. just west of College Ave, then move to the Military Library/Museum to decorate there. It ends with light refreshments. You would be more than welcome to join us for any part of that if you are interested. From 1000-1200 I plan to be at the cemetery to provide tours for those interested, but will join everyone else at the L/M from noon on...

November WW2RT will feature a program about Walter Stitt, a 20-year-old gunner in a Sherman tank in the 3rd Armored Division during the Battle of the Bulge in January 1945. Guaranteed to keep you on the edge of your seat!

New Member & Renewal Dues Now Being Accepted for 2024

Veteran Family \$20.00; Non-Veteran Family \$25.00; WWII Veterans/widows FREE Membership Please mail your check to our **PO box: WWII Roundtable Post Office Box 1965, Noblesville, IN 46061** or **Pay at the dinner beginning in September for next year**

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____ Address: _____

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

Thank you to an extraordinary volunteer for our WW2 Roundtable—Gudrun!

For the past couple of years, Gudrun, our audio/visual lady is leaving her role due to other personal commitments. She did an excellent job and we wish her the best in her future endeavors! She has worked silently behind the scenes to make sure our dinner audio-visual programs were perfectly presented. She has the patience of a saint when it comes to connecting cables, sound systems (or the lack thereof) to feature our speakers in the best light. She also updated, printed and assembled certificates of recognition for all of our guest speakers, AND updated news of our events on our website. She is looking forward to really being able to sit and enjoy future Roundtable dinners and programs as a member of our audience.

Thank you, Gudrun, our A-V Specialist *emerita!*

Unlike in years past, please note that there will be **no December Dinner-Program**. Due to our having had our Roundtable dinner just the week before and there is typically lower attendance during the busy December holiday season, the Board has decided to cancel this dinner.

Instead, please mark your calendar and join us in the New Year on January 22, 2024. **Great programs are being lined up now for 2024!** If you also have program suggestions please send them to our President Chuck Holt.

As a courtesy to others, with the fall season's 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.

Our next newsletter will feature information about our November & January programs.

Same time, same place, great speakers and remember to invite a guest!

New Member & Renewal Dues Now Being Accepted for 2024

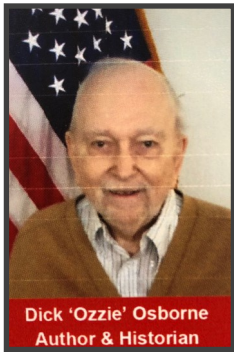
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WW 2 Trivia for September & October 2023

Inspired by Ozzie's earlier trivia reports . . .

Eighty Years ago! . . . in September & October 1943 . . .

- ◆ Sept. 1 — German army counter attacks at Salerno
- ◆ Sept. 9-16 Gen. Mark Clark's Fifth Army began landing south of Salerno for the Allied invasion of mainland Italy. Clark expected to meet Italians (Italy had surrendered), but ran into battle-tested Germans of the 16th Panzer Division. Every single planning assumption had been wrong
- ◆ Sept. 11 — German Field Marshal Kesselring declared all Italian territory was under German military control.
- ◆ Sept. 12 — Mussolini rescued from captivity in the Hotel Imperiale in the Abruzzi Mountains
- ◆ Sept. 15 — Mussolini forms a rival fascist government in Italy.
- ◆ Sept. 18 — Mass deportations of French Jews from Paris to Buchenwald concentration camp and Sept. 20, deportation of Belgium's Jews to Auschwitz
- ◆ Sept. 23 — Italian Social Republic with capital at Venice was founded as a puppet state of Nazi Germany.
- ◆ Oct. 14 — Black Thursday: The Second Schweinfurt Bombing Raid: By the time the Americans returned home, they had lost 60 B-17s, another 17 were no longer airworthy, and an additional 121 received minor damage. That was only the material loss. The number of aircrew killed, wounded, or missing in action was more than 600, totaling almost 20 percent of the men sortied. [see: <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/black-thursday-october-14-1943-second-schweinfurt-bombing-raid>]
- ◆ Oct. 16 — Jewish quarter of Rome surrounded by Nazis, they are sent to Auschwitz
- ◆ Oct. 18 — In the Solomon Islands, there is a heavy air raid on the Japanese airbase on Bougainville.
- ◆ Oct. 25 — Burma railroad completed & opens
- ◆ Oct. 29 — Three allied officers escape camp Stalag Luft 3

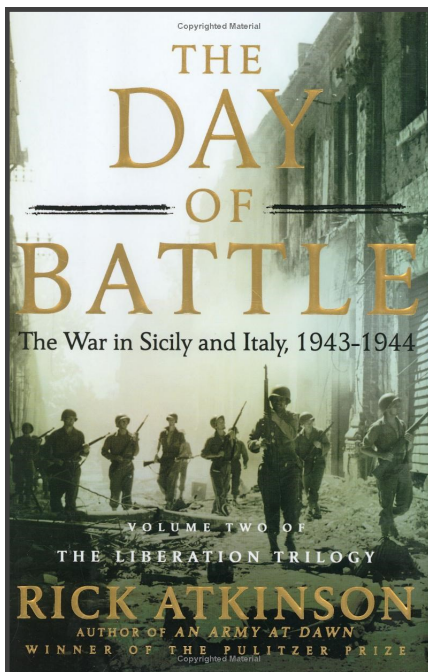


Operation *Avalanche*, Vice-Admiral Kent Hewitt, USN and Gen. Mark Clark, US Fifth Army (on right) landed on Salerno beaches. "Eventually seizing the port of Naples, the . . . Goal was to trap Axis troops to the south as Allied troops moved east. See Naval History and Heritage Command. <https://www.history.navy.mil/content/history/museums/nmusn/explore/photography/wwii/europe/italian-campaign/allied-invasion-mainland-italy.html> (Accessed 8/27/2023) (See also: <https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/allied-campaign-italy-1943-45-timeline-part-one>



Map: Source: https://www.lmtribune.com/northwest/tank-repairs-take-troops-to-italy/article_dc26e910-e44b-5a0f-b86f-9646aa93e06.html

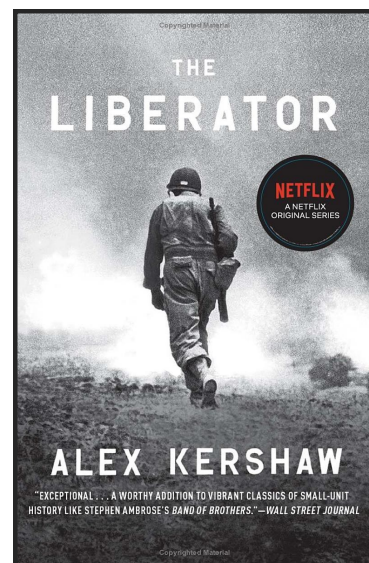
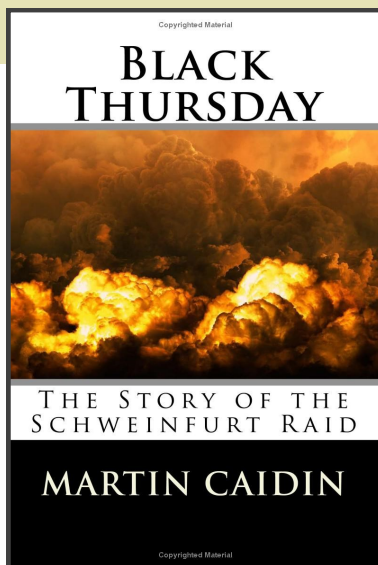
Recommended books for studying the Italian Campaign & US Air Corps over Europe, Fall 1943 . . .



Atkinson's WWII Trilogy is outstanding. In the second volume (2007), he follows "the American and British armies as they invade Sicily in July 1943, attack mainland Italy two months later, and then fight their way, mile by bloody mile, north toward Rome. The Italian campaign's outcome was never certain . . . But one underway, the commitment to liberate Italy from the Nazis never wavered. . . . Drawing on extensive new material from a wide array of primary sources, written with great drama and flair, this is narrative history of the first rank."

Another excellent writer is Alex Kershaw: His book (2012), *The Liberator*, features a WW2 soldier's 500-day odyssey from Sicily to Dachau. He has other well-known books: *The Longest Winters: The Battle of the Bulge and the Epic Story of WWII*, "*The First Wave: The D-Day Warriors Who Led the Way to Victory in WWII* (2020). The D-Day book was also a best seller— "an utterly immersive, adrenaline-driven account of D-Day combat."

Martin Caidin's book on the Schweinfurt Raid (the second) in October 1943, offers insight into the disaster that unfolded with bombing raids



When Jimmy Stewart "left Hollywood in March 1941, [he] was America's boy next door movie star and a recent Academy Award winner. He left all that behind to join the United States Army Air Corps and fulfill his family mission to serve his country—only to face obstacle after obstacle from both Hollywood and Washington. Finally he made his way to the European Theater, where several near-death experiences and the loss of men under his command took away his youthful good looks. The war finally won, he returned home with millions of other veterans to face an uncertain future, suffering what we now know as PTSD." Author Matzen "sifted through thousands of Air Force combat reports and the Stewart personnel files; interviewed surviving aviators who flew with Stewart."

Send the WWII Roundtable your book suggestions as well!