



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

September 2021 Newsletter www.WWIIroundtable.com

Greetings! I hope your summer is going GREAT! Our IN PERSON dinner programs' attendance is gradually increasing each month; however, we'd like to see more folks take advantage by viewing on Zoom—it is SO easy. We keep getting leads on potential speakers—keep them coming! The downside is that it takes a lot of planning to schedule them and some have transportation issues... speaking of which, if YOU want to attend in person, but have NO transportation, reach out to us and perhaps one of our members lives near and would volunteer to drive you. See you on the 27th!

Charles Allen Holt, D.O.

Sept. 27, 2021, 7:00 PM In-Person & Zoom

Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Social! 7:00 Greetings & 7:10

Ozzie's History Report

SPEAKER

Kathryn Lerch

Founder & Director Park Tudor School's Legacy Initiative Project

**"Ray Featherstone, Sr.'s
Submarine Chaser 38 in WWI" &
Honoring the "boys on the boat"**

Meeting Starts 7:00 PM promptly

Please use Zoom link on website to join each month.

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

7:00 Program
In person & Zoom

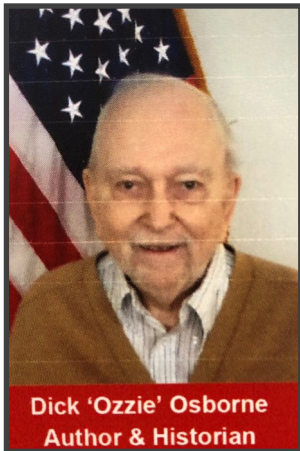
2021 DINNERS:

Feb 22, Mar 22, Apr 26,
May 24, June 28, July 26,
Aug 23, Sept 27, Oct 25,
Nov 22, Dec 27

Dues Reminder

Accepting checks now for
2021, payable to:
WWII Roundtable, Inc.
P.O. Box 1965
Noblesville, IN 46061
Or, go to our website to pay
online: wwiiroundtable.com
- Veteran \$20
- Non-Veteran \$25
- **WWII Veterans free**

Join us in person if you are able! Even more of our members attended during the summer and it was great to see so many friends once again. Remember, if you are in person and paying for a meal, you help support the Northside Service Club. They need our business. Be sure to send your RSVP to Karl Kleinbub ASAP: knj1002@mytwinestars.net or phone 317- 607- 6948. A head count for Northside Social is very important. Also, please have exact change \$11 ++ tip for your meal.



WW II TRIVIA FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

- Moslem units in Germany's Waffen SS had *Holy Men* who served as chaplains.
- When a Moslem soldier serving in Germany's armed forces died, he was buried with his head towards Mecca. This resulted in angular grave sites in many cemeteries.
- After Japan surrendered former premier Hideki Tojo and his family received many phone calls urging him to commit suicide.
- On June 11, 1947 sugar rationing ended in the US.
- In order to keep up the morale of German women, the Nazi government encouraged hair dressers, cosmetic companies, dressmakers, jewelers and others to continue to operate.
- On July 1, 1921, the Chinese Communist Party was founded by 12 people. Mao Tse Tung was one of them.
- As ethnic Germans fled from Eastern Europe to Germany ahead of the Soviet advances the young and eligible men, soon after they arrived, were drafted into the German armed forces.
- During August 1944 Germany ordered the conscription of 15 to 60 year-old men.
- The Germans recruited both boys and girls under 15 to volunteer as ammunition passers in anti-aircraft units.
- President Jimmy Carter had Harry Truman's sign, *The Buck Stop Here*, on his desk.
- In mid 1943 the Eastern Front in the Soviet Union was 1900 miles long. The Western Allies never had a front that long. When the Normandy front was created it was only 50 miles long.

...MORE TRIVIA NEXT MONTH

Guest Speaker will be Kathryn Lerch, Founder & Director of Park Tudor Schools Legacy Initiative Project

It feels a bit awkward and it is a challenge to be the WW2 Roundtable's newsletter editor and also the upcoming guest speaker at the September meeting! However, a little background information may be helpful for our members and readers of the newsletter.

In 1999 while teaching at Park Tudor, I was inspired to create a hand-on-history program. When author Andrew Carroll's story was published by Dear Abby—"we need to save family wartime letters. . . and publish the best ones", I realized there was a unique opportunity to involve students. I already realized the importance of Civil War letters which I possessed, so I contacted Carroll and he suggested a title for our efforts: "Legacy Initiative Project" I put out a call to my students, parents, faculty and alumni and was met with a huge response. Local media also picked up on this and soon wonderful individuals from the community were loaning us bins of wartime letters, etc. Beginning April 2001 we photocopied endlessly, transcribed hundreds of letters and I tasked students, parents and faculty to review and select the "best" letters for a potential anthology. I also found an interested local publisher. From this point on, my Legacy homeroom of 21 students began reading, researching and editing some gems for inclusion in what would be our first anthology. Senator Richard Lugar's office also heard about our project and asked us to partner with them—expanding our efforts to include veteran oral history interviews. Thus a one-off opportunity turned into a twenty-plus year project and a great experience for students. I "recruited" fifty-plus World Civilization history students to do interviews and eventually had a Legacy Project Homeroom as well. As a result of some on-campus "Super Saturday" Veteran Interviews, I met lots of incredible veterans. One such veteran was Dick Mote, a member of our Round Table.

Mote invited me to my first WWII Roundtable dinner in Fall 2003. He thought I would enjoy attending and meeting more WWII veterans. How correct he was! I became a member the next month. I sat at different tables every month thereafter and got to meet lots of members, many of whom are sadly no longer with us: WW2 medic James "Andy" Anderson who landed in France after D-Day, Bill Hill of the 98th Division Deadeyes in the Pacific; Leonard Rose who was imprisoned at Stalag Luft III—he always chimed in "play ball" after our salute to the Flag. There was also Dr. Bob Palmer (past president of the Round Table) who served in the Pacific. New friends also prompted new opportunities!

In 2014, I organized a two-week WW2 tour that went from Normandy to Berlin. Our group included Round Table members David and Marlene Mendonsa, Andy and Denise Fulks, Tina Pickett and WWII vets Andy Anderson, John Brill, and Bob Begeman. We joined teachers and students from Michigan and Ohio. Our Dutch tour manager made sure our vets sat at the front of the bus and had control of the mic as they regaled our group with their incredible wartime stories. A highlight for Andy Anderson was his visit to Buchenwald near Weimar, Germany—where he had been a liberator in 1945—during his visit he was invited to come back as a guest of the Buchenwald Foundation for the 70th anniversary of the camp's liberation in 2015. In 2017 and 2018, additional groups from our Round Table toured WWII sites in Europe.

Thanks to our Round Table veterans, even more oral history interviews were completed. I am most appreciative to those who volunteered to tell their stories. This project has made a difference in the lives of so many people. More than 700 interviews have been sent to the Library of Congress Veteran History Project, and more than 300 sound recordings have also been uploaded to IUPUI Library. Since I

am now semi-retired and manage just the Legacy Project with a dozen or so students, our focus is on preserving stories from collections.

My office holds resources for students and clients of more than 900 military history related books, as well as collections of original wartime letters, diaries, maps and photographs.

Over the past twenty years I have worked with many motivated and talented students—they have done interviews and transcribed the contents. In addition, students have proofed manuscripts, written and edited chapter introductions, designed dust jacket covers, and even used their language skills to translate documents from German, French, Italian, Chinese and Japanese sources. Special summer trips have taken small groups of students to the National Archives for research where they were tasked with locating specific WWI and WW2 military records and photographs, as well as Civil War pension files. Two years ago, a couple rising seniors traveled with me and another teacher colleague to London, Normandy, Paris, Munich and Nuremberg in order to study D-Day invasion sites and other WWII memorials related to our next project— a WW2 field surgeon's letters from England to Normandy and beyond.

I never dreamt that our project would eventually produce six *Words of War* anthologies, two monographs, and four travel journals designed for our European WWII-related trips.—and more subjects are in the works! Nor did I anticipate we would acquire numerous primary resources such as letters, diaries, post cards, maps and journals via eBay to enhance our projects.

Typically, a book takes time to complete, depending on the scope and complexity of the original materials. Each of our WW1 monographs , for example, took more than two years to complete. All the original materials—whether WW1 photo albums, autographed certificates, or hand-marked maps had to be scanned, then letters transcribed before items could be made available to student-researchers. Next an outline and manuscript were created.

I am grateful to all those generous individuals who trusted us to safeguard their treasures while they were scanned or photographed. I am honored that our project has been recognized by The Library of Congress Veteran's Oral History Project, the Indiana Historical Society, The American Legion and numerous other local organizations, including the WW2 Round Table.

REMINDER: The WW2 Round Table Board hopes you enjoyed our August program—albeit without our guests . . . Marlene Mendonsa did a wonderful presentation. Did you know, too, that some of our members and their families also have some incredible stories to share? The Board would like to encourage you to contact board members or **Kathryn Lerch (klerch@parktudor.org)** if you would like to share a story or two!

SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH THE WW2 ROUND TABLE!

Kathryn can help with scanning photos, documents, and putting together a Power-Point for a presentation. You may make an appointment for a time slot before one of our monthly dinners, or at another time by special arrangement: **5:00-5:30** or **5:30-6:00**. Just let us know how we may help!

We would love to have our winter meetings feature some of our members' best stories—highlighting especially accounts from WWII—from any branch of service, including also civilian stories, and stories from any nation! Let's document and save your family history.

This "service" is related to the Legacy Initiative Project at Park Tudor School. For more information on this project go to: www.parktudor.org/legacy or read more on pp. 2-3.



Preview & Prepare for October!



Learn more about Afghanistan & US Role there

Kyle Carone and Ryan Zimpleman enlisted together. Both are Army Veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq with multiple tours in country. They will be our presenters in October! You will not want to miss this timely program

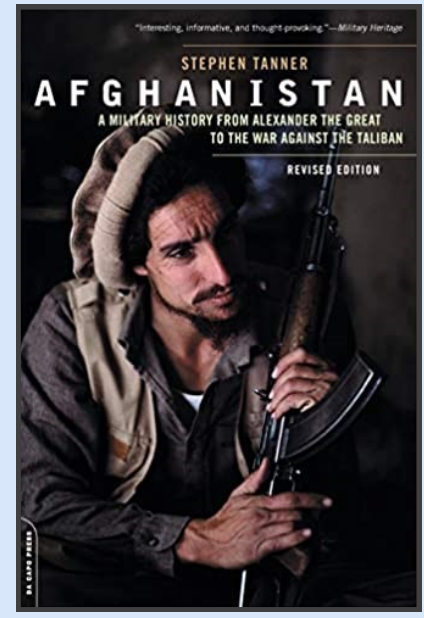
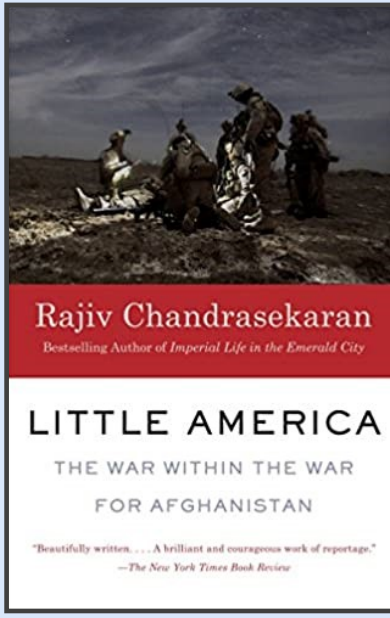
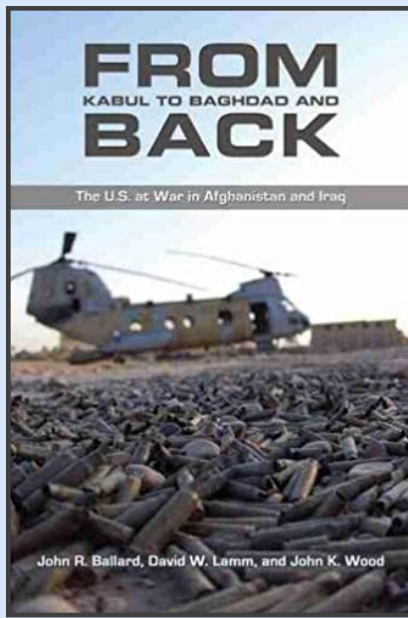
Hear more about the US & Allied mission in Afghanistan 2001-2021. . .

Reading suggestions and links to staying informed: Human Rights Watch (HRW.org) is commenting about rights of women in Afghanistan . . .

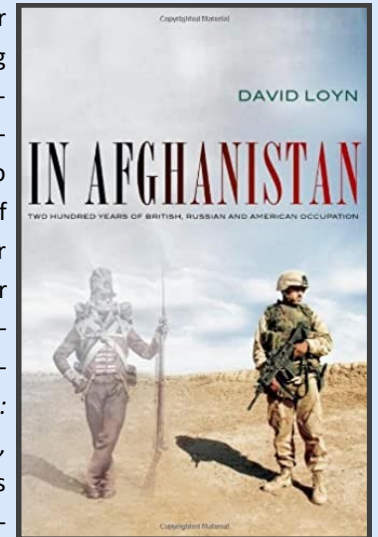
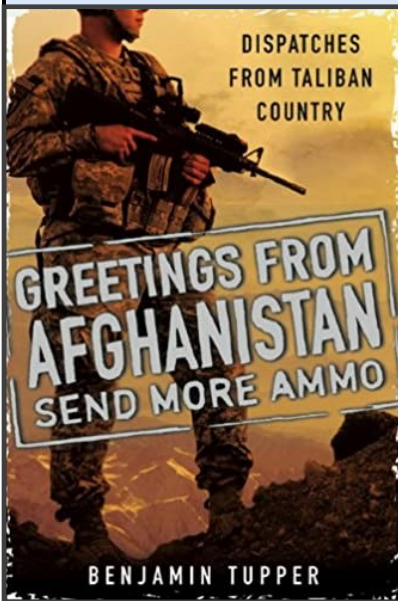


Credit: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/05/27/doing-human-rights-afghanistan-right-time>

Reading Suggestions for October!



From Kabul to Baghdad questions operational factors, COIN doctrine and the decision to give NATO the lead, the performance of both civilian and military leaders, and the prosecution of the Iraq War—style surge, etc. In 2010's *Greetings from Afghanistan*, "Captain Benjamin Tupper spent a year in Afghanistan in an Embedded Training Team, tasked with training, leading in combat, and mentoring the Afghan Army to victory against the brutal Taliban. Next, Rajiv Chandrasekaran does not hesitate to critique America's Cold War policies in *Little America*. If one prefers a much broader historical view, then consider skimming Tanner's *Afghanistan: A Military History*. . . Or read (not pictured) Donald W. Engle's fascinating *Alexander the Great & Logistics of the Macedonia Army* [in Afghanistan]. I have not read this last book, *In Afghanistan: 200 Years of British, Russian and American Occupation*, but the fact that it covers 200 years, perhaps some clues and lessons can be gained—Afghanistan is tribal, not winnable and not governable using our "style". KL



In addition to these book suggestions, please check out this link for Human Right Watch: Defending Human Rights Worldwide <https://www.hrw.org/> **HRW.org** This organization does daily updates on human rights issues especially the rights of women in Afghanistan which are now threatened.



REMINDERS: New Lecture Series: "Okinawa"

Dr. John Shively's Lectures are available on YouTube

Historian/author and WWII Round Table member John Shively has presented a series of GoTo webinar lectures during this winter and spring. If you wish to be on his email list, please contact John Shively at indjcs@aol.com or 765-491-7010 or go to WWII RT webpage for information. His programs have been recorded and are available also via these links. He has just posted to YouTube the first of a planned three part lecture series on the battle of Okinawa. Here is the YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9TtgZ2jF1vU> It is now ready for viewing. He is now working on a lecture - or two - on the battle of Okinawa provisionally titled *Okinawa: The Last Battle*. Sometime I also will make a virtual tour of Okinawa as I did for Guadalcanal. This will be based mostly on the photos I have taken on my previous visits to Okinawa. I am not sure how long this lecture will be but anticipate it will not be anywhere near as long as the series on Guadalcanal. But... The plan after I finish Okinawa is to return to the battle of Guadalcanal and make a slideshow/lecture on the naval battles of Guadalcanal.

One of these days I hope to have my own website dedicated to the Pacific war with all of these lectures on one site rather than scattered on [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com). Hope you enjoy these lectures and are learning something. They should put you in good stead if you plan to go with me to Guadalcanal or Okinawa in the future. I am now going to make one on the battle of Okinawa. When that is complete I will make one on the naval battles of Guadalcanal. As always, all critical comments are welcome. I want to get the history right. Also, comments on the cosmetic appearance are welcome. Cactus guide, John

Reminder! The Legacy Initiative's newest book has arrived! This book will be the program topic at the September 27th WWII RT dinner meeting. *US Submarine Chaser 38 in WWI*, honors late Round Table member, **Ray Featherstone, Jr.** and his father's WWI sub-chaser war service. Learn more about this wartime service, how Ray (junior's) story took shape, and evolved to include the stories of other men on his boat.

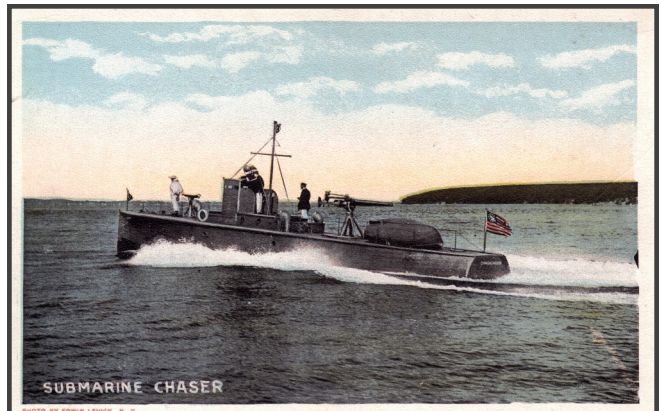


Ray Featherstone, Sr.

Dick Osborne wrote the following for the book: "My friend, Ray Featherstone, Jr., and I were neighborhood buddies, high school classmates, and had a lot of mutual friends. Ray liked history and was proud of his service his father performed in WWI. He was an active member of the Indianapolis WWII Round Table and the War Years Discussion Group and on occasion lectured to those groups on historical subjects. One of his lectures was on his father's service aboard Subchaser 38."

I look forward to honoring our late member Ray Featherstone by presenting his father's WW1 story about SC 38. Because Ray's story was inspiring, I was motivated to expand the original manuscript to include a social history encompassing all the men who served on the boat. Who were these men? What were their lives like before, during and after WW1? What motivated them to serve? Join our dinner meeting on the 27th and find out more!

A limited number of books have been published and will be available for purchase at Round Table dinners. If you wish the book mailed to you: Retail: \$29.95 media mail & handling: \$5.00 Please make your check to *Park Tudor School*, with "Legacy Initiative" on memo line. Mail to Kathryn Lerch, 711 E. 58th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220 for prompt response. If you wish to pick up at our dinners, please send me an email to **reserve one or more copies**. A book signing opportunity will follow the September program. The WW2RT will receive a small donation for each book sold at our meetings. The book pairs well with our earlier publication, *Major John G. Emery in World War I Early Leader of the American Legion* (2020), which will also be available at the WWII RT dinners. Regards, Kathryn Lerch, editor of both books.



Tips for Preserving Family History Stories & More

Below are some quick tips and suggestions for documenting and saving family stories . . .



* Record and send in your own family WWII oral history interview. Contact Library of Congress Veteran History Project. Wartime stories include both civilian and military service stories:

* Go to this website and click on appropriate links.

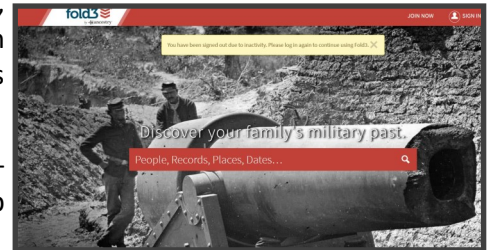
<https://www.loc.gov/vets/vets-home.html>

* Online Resources for Researching Military History Records can be located both through Ancestry.com and Fold3. For example, it is possible to locate WWI and WWII draft registration cards—which provide family names and addresses.



Some states also surveyed returning veterans (particularly after WW1) and more information can be located on these surveys. If a WWI vet served, this may also be indicated in the US Census for 1930 in the far right column. Note, in April 2022, the US Census for 1950 will become available to researchers!

Fold3 (organized by Ancestry) specializes in military records, including MACR (missing aircrew reports), troop transport lists, etc.



Tips on Scanning or Photographing family documents: use flatbed scanner or cell phone. Use a micro cloth to dust off photo if necessary. Follow instructions for scanner or phone to digitize the old photos. Save each photo with searchable label, e.g.: HLWilsey Marshall Plan 1947 Norway1.jpg or Jones grandmother birthday 7-21-1981 no 2.jpg Scan 3x5 photos no lower than 300 dots per inch (dpi), but 600 dpi may be better. It is possible to scan on some scanners up to 2400 dpi for very small photos and then they can be enlarged. Save groups of similar photos in a labeled folder on computer (Marshall Plan Norway Photos) or disc, and in the cloud. Photos should be saved in two different locations to avoid loss. I have three or four different drives (different colors) where I save scanned photos and documents. This link has some good suggestions for preserving documents: <https://www.aarp.org/home-family/personal-technology/info-2019/how-to-digitize-photos.html>

If you are very adventurous, **GooglePhotos** and **MyHeritage** sites also offer some special services:

* **MyHeritage** has a program to colorize black and white photos—it is amazing how this can make old photos seem much more life-like and realistic! **Go to:** <https://www.myheritage.com/incolor> **GooglePhotos** at <https://www.google.com/photos/scan/> has technology for automatic edge detection, perspective correction, and smart rotation. **Happy scanning!**

