



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

December 2021 Newsletter www.WWIIroundtable.com

I hope you had a blessed Thanksgiving and have already cleaned out your gutters... 'tis a bit chilly outside. But inside, the WWII Roundtable's many members have been keeping warm by working hard to continue our great organization! There are lots of ways you can volunteer to help as well. We are always looking for leads on potential speakers, links to interesting articles, as well as sending us obituaries of former members. I look forward to hearing some great SHORT stories about our members' military experiences centered around Pearl Harbor or Christmas—PLEASE RSVP to Karl Kleinbub ASAP if you want to tell a story! We are also lining up some great programs for 2022 which you will not want to miss, so remember and support us and pay your 2022 dues. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Charles Holt, D.O.

Dec 6, 2021, 7:00 PM In-Person & Zoom

Dinner 6-7:00 at North Side Social!

7:00 "Trivia Report" by Brad Damon & 7:15 Program

Members Share Their Pearl Harbor or Holiday Story

RSVP is required to share your story!

Meeting Starts 7:00 PM promptly

Please use Zoom link on website prior to start of meeting

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6:00 Dinner served
\$11 + table tip++
7:00 Program
In person & Zoom

DATES FOR 2022

JAN 24	JUL 25
FEB 28	AUG 22
MAR 28	SEP 26
APR 25	OCT 24
MAY 23	NOV 28
JUN 27	DEC 5

2022 WWII Round Table Dues are due in December

Please pay via website or bring exact cash or check to dinner in December. At dinner sign-in, you will also be able to confirm correctness of your membership information. This will help us update our membership list.

Veteran Family \$20.0; Non-Veteran Family \$25.00; WWII Veterans FREE Membership

Join us in person if you are able! Even more of our members attended the November meeting 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@myninestar.net or phone 317-607-6948. **no later than DEC 3!** A head count for Northside Social 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! Please fill out the volunteer form at the end of this newsletter and bring to the meeting—this is also available at the dinner in December. Thank you!

UPCOMING PROGRAM

- ◆ Please note the important change of date! Thank you to those who joined our large audience at the November 22nd dinner and program and who also agreed to the recommendation to change our December 27th dinner to an earlier date in the month.
- ◆ This is really not a watershed “change”. When the WW2 Round Table was founded in 1987, it was largely composed of WW2 veterans—for whom remembering Pearl Harbor was a sacred moment. Thus, the Round Table’s tradition was to schedule the December dinner close to this date. It was decided also that the rest of the dinner meetings would be on the 4th Monday of each month, and if necessary, the May date was adjusted to accommodate Memorial Day. Your board proposes we align once again with this plan.
- ◆ The board is most appreciative that the Northside Social Club is able to accommodate us on the earlier date—and that our members support this change.

Inviting Members & Guests to Share Their Story:

“Remembering Pearl Harbor” or “A Christmas or Hanukkah Memory”

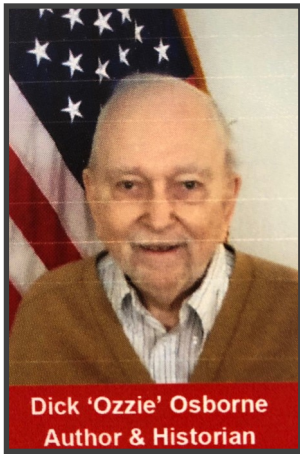
Our December program will consist of 8-10 vetted brief stories. Each speaker has a 4-5 minute time limit. Possible suggestions:

- ◆ Where were you on December 7, 1941? What do you remember about this date? Or, what tales were handed down in your family from those who served in WW2?
- ◆ Where you were during Christmas when you were in the military, or part of a military family? Were you in some exotic locale or a foxhole, perhaps—in Korea, Vietnam, Iraq or Afghanistan? Or, present a story about a relative’s service at this time.
- ◆ Do you have a letter to share written by a veteran commenting on either of these events?
- ◆ Do you have memories of special Hanukkahs or of family members who celebrated this holiday during WW2?



Please send Karl Kleinbub your request to be a part of the program by December 3rd if possible, including your topic. You will receive a confirmation and possible order in which you will present on the 6th. The early bird is more likely to be included! We’ll try to post some of the best stories from that evening (as well as some that could not be included due to our time limit) in the January edition of the newsletter.

P.S.: The board is looking to fill program slots for next April and May. Please send suggestions for future speakers to Dr. Holt: charles.holt@va.gov, or Kathryn Lerch klerch@parktudor.org; or Bill Ervin, [<wervin@butler.edu>](mailto:wervin@butler.edu)



WW II TRIVIA FOR DECEMBER 2021

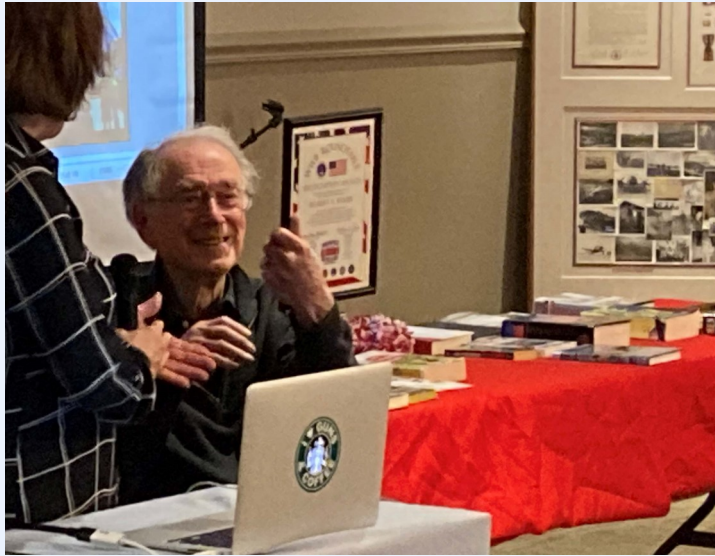
- ◆ In February 1945 Columbus, OH had a water shortage that threatened to affect operations at their huge Curtiss-Wright factory, so the city government asked the city residents to conserve water by flushing their toilets only once a day per person.
- ◆ In February 1943 the British learned that Goebbels was scheduled to give an important address from Berlin over the radio at a given time.

The British therefore scheduled an air raid to hit the city 45 minutes before Goebbels began his speech.

- ◆ Soon after the Battle of the Bismarck Sea in March 1943 in which the Japanese lost several transports filled with Japanese soldiers, Radio Tokyo announced that Japanese soldiers would now be taught how to swim.
 - ◆ In November 1943 the Germans offered the Russian people a generous reward for the head of a notorious guerilla leader, Mikhail Romashkin. The reward was 32 acres of land, a house, 15,000 rubles, 2 cows and 1 horse.
 - ◆ In the Japanese military honorable suicide as atonement for failure was so engrained that family members usually supported this concept and, at times, encouraged it. Also in some cases wives would commit suicide along with their husbands.
 - ◆ On VJ Day, August 15, 1945, former Premier Hiedeki Tojo's son-in law, Hidehasa Koga, committed suicide with a pistol. Tojo acquired the pistol and used it on himself on September 11 in an attempt to commit suicide. Tojo's suicide attempt failed, he recovered, was tried and convicted of war crimes and hanged.
 - ◆ On February 14, 1942 the British surrendered Singapore to the Japanese. The surrender ceremony took place in the Ford Motor Company's factory on the outskirts of the city.
 - ◆ In November 1943 when President Roosevelt went to Tehran to meet with Stalin and Churchill he took with him his 6 cooks who normally served aboard his Presidential yacht.
 - ◆ US General Jonathon Wainwright was a prisoner of the Japanese for over 3 years. When he was liberated in August 1945 he weighed 130 pounds. He was 6' 3" tall. He later stated that he had played 8632 game of solitaire and had taken on the task of sharpening razors for the other POWs.
- . . . **MORE TRIVIA NEXT MONTH**

Recent Dinner Events

NOVEMBER



Robert E. Baker presented jointly with his son, **Kent**, a fascinating program about his time in the 20th Air Force in the China-Burma-India Theatre during WW2. At the conclusion of the program Bob was presented a certificate by board member, **Marlene Mendonsa**, thanking him for his service. His family invited his “fan base” and thirty-some additional guests enjoyed listening to his talk and PowerPoint presentation. His family also shared a fabulous display of awards and photographs commemorating his wartime service.

Go to the earlier November newsletter to read more about his background.

Also on November 22, another guest **Ray Sommers** and his wife, Myrna, friends of **Gudrun Carlson**, attended our November dinner for the first time. Ray is a WWII veteran who served in the US Navy. He enlisted when he was 17 and sailed in the Pacific Theater from Australia to the Philippines. He was eventually stationed at Subic Bay, where he continued to specialize in maintenance on US submarines—the US Navy needed to keep them running!

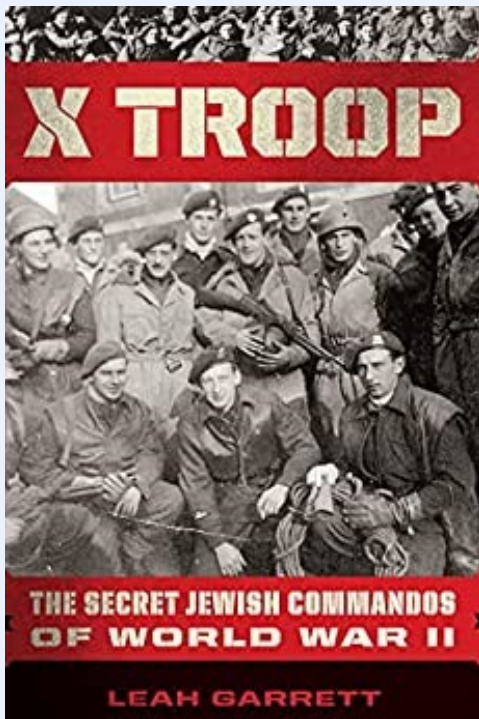
EARLIER IN OCTOBER

Below: **VP Bill Ervin** introduced our speakers in October: **Kyle**



Carone and Ryan Zimpleman. They jointly presented a program about their experiences serving in Afghanistan—this could have been two programs, there was so much to cover! Perhaps we’ll invite them back for the “rest of their story”!

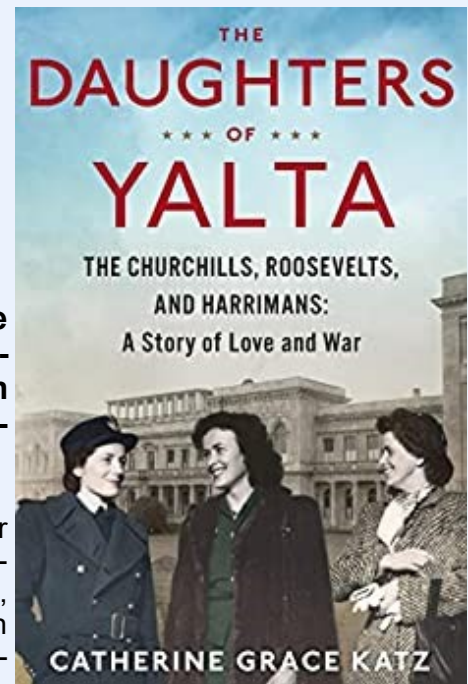
Additional Reading or Gift-giving Suggestion



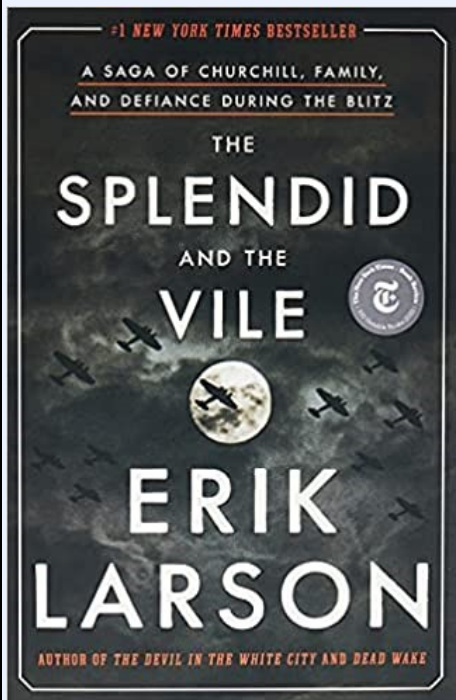
“Brilliantly researched, utterly gripping history: the first full account of a remarkable group of Jewish refugees—a top-secret band of brothers—who waged war on Hitler.”—Alex Kershaw, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Longest Winter* and *The Liberator*

—Leah Garrett participated in an interview on November 1, 2021 for the Ann Katz Book Festival. She is a meticulous researcher and engaging writer! You will want to read this book and watch for her next exciting project, Kathryn Lerch

The untold story of the three intelligent and glamorous young women who accompanied their famous fathers to the Yalta Conference in February 1945, and of the conference’s fateful reverberations in the waning days of World War II.



—This is a book club choice for the Indianapolis English Speaking Union in February 2022, timed of course to coincide with the anniversary of the Yalta Conference in 1945



#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • The author of *The Devil in the White City* and *Dead Wake* delivers an intimate chronicle of Winston Churchill and London during the Blitz—an inspiring portrait of courage and leadership in a time of unprecedented crisis

—Also a book club choice for the Indianapolis English Speaking Union in 2021. This is the perfect book if you wish to know more about Churchill and his understanding of the Third Reich. A gripping book, one which you will not want to put down either!

Volunteering Opportunities with the WW2 Round Table

Here's how I can help the WW2 Round Table:

Your help and ideas are needed in the development of the WWII Round Table? Please take a few moments to share your thoughts with our board and consider being an active participant in one of the following areas:

- I know a veteran who could be considered for a future program (name & how to contact) _____
- I recommend the following place(s) of interest in Indiana to visit: _____
- I can recommend future event(s) that might be of interest to our membership . . .
- One of our members is being (or has been specially recognized) with an award: _____
- A card from the board: "we are thinking of you" (reason) should be sent to: _____
- I would like to be a greeter at meetings (welcome new guests, introduce them prior to the dinner)

"Helpers" often evolve into volunteer assistants or board members . . .

Stepping up my commitment to the Round Table: (Circle the arrow dart if this is your interest or passion)

- I have skills that may be helpful to the board and our program (please list): _____
- I have tech skills that may help potential presenters with PowerPoint programs, set up equipment for Zoom and speakers in the dining room, video-record special events.
- I am willing to help with set-up of meetings (before 5 pm) or help with take down (8:15+/- pm)
- I am willing to help with selling dinner tickets at the door and keeping a count of attendees for the NSSC (5 pm)
- I am willing to act as a greeter to attendees, first-time guests, and speakers (5:30)
- I am willing to welcome and introduce a veteran who is new to the event with roving mic (6:30)
- I am willing to take photos of new attending veterans/guests and sending photos via email to the newsletter editor
- I'd like to organize and coordinate "field trips" to interesting museum / WW2 sites in Indiana
- I'd like to generate a recommended reading book list each month or quarterly

I am interested in being considered for a board or "assistant" position, because . . .

- ◆ I want to get involved and I want to learn more about this organization
- ◆ I have finance, writing, editing or public speaking skills that could be helpful
- ◆ I like designing and laying out a monthly newsletter or assisting with web design
- ◆ I have a passion for WWII history, our veterans and finding ways to help them save or tell their stories
- ◆ I am an idea person and I follow through with commitments
- ◆ I am available to assist monthly, occasionally, or as often as needed
- ◆ I enjoy working with other similarly passionate people in support of the WW2 Round Table

A little more about me (career area, full-time, part-time employed, retired, etc.)

Name: _____

Contact information: Phone: _____ email: _____

Full Address: _____ + (zip) _____

Best time to contact:

Email this page to klerch@parktudor.org and it will be shared with the board and assistants. Thank you!