



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

March & April 2023 Newsletter www.WWIIroundtable.com

I hope you all sprang forward with your clocks and didn't slip on the snow! I wish you all could have joined my retired Royal Canadian Army Reserve MAJ friend (who has attended the Roundtable) and me of a 1,000 mile history trek that included the first KFC/Cumberland Falls/Show of Shows Militaria in KY. Also visited Pall Mall, TN—home of WWI SGT Alvin Cullum York—who was a MAJ in WWII, too—Wikipedia has a good write up on him. We then toured the excellent Evansville War-time Museum with its P47 Thunderbolt that was built next-door. There is so much to see and do in IN and its bordering states and Canada. Looking forward to our upcoming speakers!

Charles Allen Holt, D.O.

March 27 & April 24, 2023, 7:00 PM

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

7:00: Trivia Presentations WW2 Veteran Bob Begeman: "Ulithi in WW2"

& Other Pacific Topics TBA

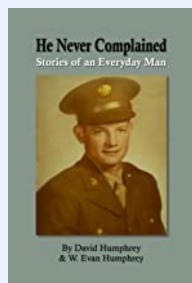
March Program



Catherine Whalen Purdy

**Finding Monument to WW2 Soldier
Pvt. Robert J. Whalen**

April Program



David & Evan Humphrey

**George Humphrey in the 36th Infantry
Division in WW2**

George Humphrey served from Hamilton County and fought in Europe in WW2. Hear his story as shared by his son and grandson!



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	

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

Round Table Board

Chuck Holt, President
William Ervin, 1st VP
Kathryn Lerch, 2nd VP
Treasurer, Lucy Parker
Asst Treas., Richard Eisgruber
Meeting Arrangements: Karl & Jan Kleinbub
At Large: Brad Damon, Travis Petrie, Marlene Mendonsa, & Steve Hogan

Regular Monthly Dinner \$11++ Join us in person if you are able! Be sure to send your RSVP to Karl Kleinbub ASAP: knj1002@mytimestar.net or phone 317- 607- 6948. **no later than Thursday prior to Monday's program!** 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. 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.

March & April Program Details

In 2022, The first quarter issue of *Hoosier Legionnaire*, published a cover story: “Monument in France dedicated to fallen Indiana Soldier”. This month’s program will feature how a family in Indiana discovered the final story of “Pvt. Robert J. Whalen, who was the only American soldier killed in action on August 29, 1944, during the liberation of Vailly-sur-Aisne in northern France.” Our speaker will be Catherine Whalen Purdy, his niece. She will share her remarkable story of how, by chance, she uncovered a clue that led to the family’s discovery of a monument in the small town of Vailly-sur-Aisne. In 2019, this town honored his sacrifice 75 years after his death. In 2021, the family made a pilgrimage to the town for a remembrance ceremony. This will be a touching and inspiring program—be sure to RSVP your reservation!



April Dinner speakers will be David and Evan Humphrey. They will also honor a family member and WW2 veteran, the late Pvt. George Humphrey. Humphrey, recipient of numerous medals, served in the 36th Infantry Division in North Africa, Italy and France. They will share his story—a man who represented so many young men who fought in WWII and “never complained”. This an appropriate title for their recently published book—*He Never Complained: Stories of an Everyday Man*. Copies will be available for purchase at the dinner.

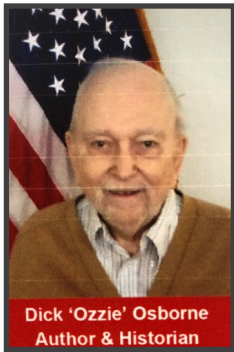
New Member Dues Accepted

Dues are: 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

Print Name: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Address: _____

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



WW 2 TRIVIA FOR March & April 2023

Inspired by Ozzie's earlier trivia reports . . . © World War II Trivia: Richard Osborne,

Eighty Years ago! on March & April 1943 . . .

- ◆ **March 5:** The Allied strategic bombing campaign known as the Battle of the Ruhr began with a raid by RAF aircraft on the Krupp munitions factory at Essen, Germany.
- ◆ **March 6:** Major General George S. Patton, Jr. took command of the US Army II Corps—he was “recognized as the Army’s foremost expert on tank fighting” and was soon promoted to lieutenant general.
- ◆ **March 10:** “Germany announced new rationing of nonessential goods, prohibiting the manufacture of suits, costumes, bath salts, and firecrackers, and restricting telephone use and photography.” “New Suits, Firecrackers Are Banned in Germany”, *Milwaukee Journal*, March 11, 1943, p2
- ◆ **March 16:** “Joseph Stalin sent a letter to President Roosevelt urging that a second front be opened in Europe. Stalin wrote, “The Soviet troops have fought strenuously all winter and are continuing to do so, while Hitler is taking important measures to rehabilitate and reinforce his Army for the spring and summer operations against the USSR; it is therefore particularly essential for us that the blow from the West no longer be delayed, that it be delivered this spring or early summer.” *WW2 Timelines*. **March 16:** In the largest North Atlantic U-boat “wolf pack” attack of the war against Allied shipping, 22 merchant ships from Convoy HX 229 and Convoy SC 122 were sunk. One German U-boat was lost in the battle. [See WW2 [Convoy-Web](http://www.convoyweb.org.uk) <http://www.convoyweb.org.uk> database]
- ◆ **March 22:** Deportation began of 4,000 Jews in Nazi-occupied France. The prisoners were sent by train from the Drancy internment camp, near Paris, to the Sobibor extermination camp in Poland, and 1,000 were sent two days later. All but 15 were sent to gas chambers upon their arrival, and only five of the 4,000 survived World War II. [Gilbert, Martin](#) (2002). *The Routledge Atlas of the Holocaust*. [Routledge](#). p. 153
- ◆ **March 29:** Food rationing began in the United States following the March 12 announcement of limits on beef, pork, lamb and mutton, as well as butter, cheese and canned fish. Poultry was not affected by the order. Rationing of Meats Will Begin Mar. 29”, *Milwaukee Journal*, March 12, 1943, p1
- ◆ **April 14:** The Commander of the 8th Japanese fleet broadcast a coded message concerning a tour of the fleet by the Naval Commander Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto to begin on April 18, probably in the high security code JN25 which Allied cryptanalysts had broken. David Kahn, *The Codebreakers: The Comprehensive History of Secret Communication from Ancient Times to the Internet* (Simon and Schuster, 1996) p595
- ◆ **April 18:** Japan's Admiral Yamamoto killed when Americans discover and shoot down his airplane. A late member of our WW2 Roundtable, Lt. Stuart R. Felton of the XIII “Jungle” Air Corps, remembers this event: “Our little tiny air force, the little old 13th did have some pilots that shot down the plane of Yamamoto, and when he was killed, they [the Japanese] lost some of their best brain power,” and this was “a major psychological warfare victory.” *Words of War* [Vol. 1, 2001], p. 130
- ◆ **April 30:** The British submarine HMS *Seraph* surfaced off of the coast of Spain, near Huelva, and dumped the body of “Major Martin” into the Mediterranean Sea as part of the [Operation Mincemeat](#), to deceive German intelligence on plans for an Allied invasion of the continent. Tom Cutler, *The Gentleman's Bedside Companion: A Compendium of Manly Information for the Last Fifteen Minutes of the Day* (Penguin, 2011) See trailer for movie [Operation Mincemeat: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwkSyrN0mvY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zwkSyrN0mvY)



Admiral Yamamoto