



From the Desk of Roundtable President Charles Holt

January 2024 Newsletter

www.WWIIroundtable.com

Happy New Year! The WWII Roundtable is VERY excited to continue our mission, founded in 1987 with Bill Ervin and 3 others, to educate/illuminate us about WWII and that era! We are diligently working to line up speakers for our dinner meetings. We need YOUR help in assisting us in ANY way you can!!! Please contact us with leads on potential speakers—they can be local, national or international! We have new trifold and bookmarks to JUDICIOUSLY give to those who you think would JOIN our organization (membership dues are our #1 sustainment). These cost \$ to print and we run on a shoestring (if YOU or SOMEONE you know would like to donate \$ to keep us afloat....please let us know ASAP!) Like so many organizations we MUST bring in young members...most of us sport gray hair...there are lots of young people out there who need YOU to evangelize them on the importance of WWII history! Make it a priority to invite them/buy them dinner/encourage to buy a membership/invite others to our Roundtable! If you don't follow the current events news...our world is repeating the follies of the past...we may shape leaders who can keep us safe from destruction. Looking forward to seeing your WONDERFUL faces at the January meeting. ALWAYS RSVP with Karl/Jan Kleinbub ASAP, so the chef knows EXACTLY the # of meals to prepare.

Charles A. Holt, D.O.

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

7:00: Trivia Presentation 7:15 Featured Program

January 22, 2024



WW2 Story of Jack Bronicki

He escaped a concentration camp and
joined a resistance group

Laurie Freeman is a psychotherapist in private practice and daughter of Holocaust survivor Jack Bronicki. A member of the JCRC Speakers Bureau, Laurie is passionate about bringing her father's story to audiences. She hopes that by hearing her father's story, people will see the Holocaust as more than a fixed point in history but a tangible event that continues to touch people's lives in their communities.

WHERE HISTORY AND
HEROES MEET



**WWII HISTORY &
WARTIME STORIES
for Everyone!**



Ernie Pyle
WWII Pulitzer Prize Reporter

MONTHLY DINNER PROGRAMS

Live Guest Speakers
Northside Events & Social Club
(formerly "Knights of Columbus")
2100 E 71st Street,
Indianapolis, IN 46220

Doors open - 5 PM
\$11 Buffet Dinner - 6 PM (RSVP)
Program - 7 PM

WWWIIROUNDTABLE.COM

Roundtable Board

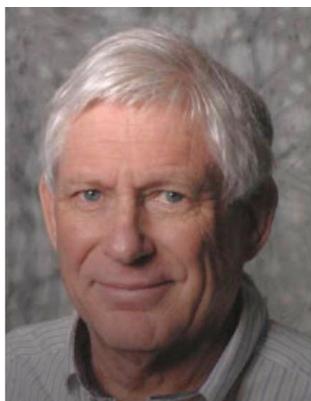
Charles A. Holt, President
Open, 1st VP
Kathryn Lerch, 2nd VP
Treasurer, Andy Fulks
Asst Treas., Richard Eisgruber
Meeting Arrangements: Karl &
Jan Kleinbub
At Large: Brad Damon, Travis
Petrie, Marlene Mendonsa, &
Steve Hogan
Web/Audio/Visual:
Travis Petrie & Steve Hogan

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@myinestar.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!

As a courtesy to others, with the winter 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.

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

In Memory of
William Ervin, Co-Founder and Vice-President
The Ernie Pyle Roundtable



It is with great sadness that the Board of Directors shares the news of the sudden passing of co-founder and Vice-President of our Roundtable, William Irvin, on December 15, 2023. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 11:00 a.m. at the Cornerstone Lutheran Church, 4850 E Main St, Carmel, IN.

Bill was the consummate historian. He, along with his friend, Dr. Bob Palmer, who had served in the WW2 Air Corps, were instrumental in the founding of our Roundtable in 1984. Their mission initially was to preserve eyewitness accounts of WW2, and later provide WW2-related programs of interest to veterans and families. It was a no-brainer for the founders to name the Roundtable after the famous Hoosier from Dana, Indiana, WW2 reporter Ernie Pyle.

“Bill was always an active participant at our board meetings. He brought fresh ideas to the table and generated food for thought. In fact, he offered financial support to pay for highly valued speakers to attend our programs. . . . As a founding member of the organization, he “had access to a wealth of information. One of his recent missions was to preserve *The World War II Times*, an Indianapolis published newspaper during the 1990s which he brought to our group.*

He was always thinking ahead and had a vision. . . . In addition, Bill was a good resource in remembering past events and could also cross reference with his long-time involvement with the Aero Club. Bill was charismatic in his own way, had a positive attitude and was always willing to pursue a lead for a possible speaker. Overall, Bill was simply a nice human being and was a pleasure to know.”—
Marlene Mendonsa

*Copies of *The World War II Times* are being digitized and will be linked to our website in 2024.

Here is the link to the obituary: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/indianapolis-in/william-ervin-11583400>

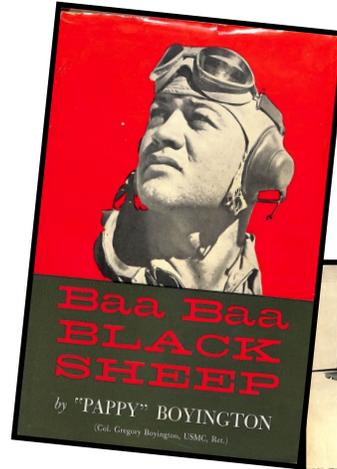


WW 2 Trivia for January & February 2024

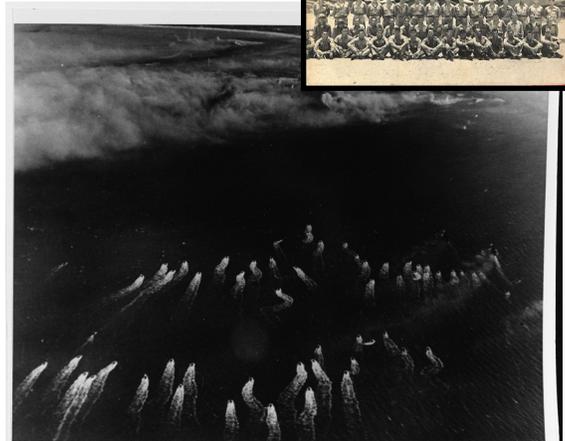
Inspired by Ozzie's earlier trivia reports . . .

Eighty Years ago! in January & February 1944 . . .

- ◆ January 3, 1944—Top US flying ace Major “Pappy” Boyington shot down in his Corsair by Japanese Captain Masajiro Kawato flying a Zero (survives as POW)
- ◆ January 4, Operation CARPETBAGGER begins (aerial dropping of supplies and weapons to resistance fighters in Europe) Earl Zimmerman (a member of our Roundtable) flew missions over Ploesti, Romania, was shot down and interned in Turkey, a neutral country. After he escaped, he trekked across North Africa and returned to the UK where he participated in Operation CARPETBAGGER missions over Norway
- ◆ January 16, General Eisenhower takes command of Allied Invasion Force in London
- ◆ January 22, Allied forces begin landing at Anzio on the Italian mainland
- ◆ February 3, World War II: United States troops capture the Marshall Islands.
- ◆ February 7, Germans launch counteroffensive at Anzio, Italy
- ◆ February 15, Allies begin attack on Axis held Monte Cassino monastery, Italy
- ◆ February 17-23, Battle of Eniwetok in the Pacific
- ◆ February 22, World War II: US Army Air Forces accidentally bomb Dutch town of Nijmegen, around 800 civilians die
- ◆ February 28 Arrests of the ten-Boom family in Nazi occupied Netherlands (Haarlem) through a Dutch collaborator on charges of hiding Jews



Published in 1958 by G. P. Putnam's Sons, N.Y.

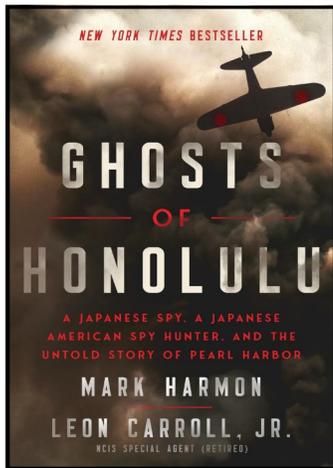


Eniwetok invasion (National Archives)



Nijmegen, Holland (Sept 1944) *"Historische @tlas Nijmegen"*. Archived from the original on 29 June 2016. Retrieved 7 May 2017. (Accessed Dec. 30, 2023)

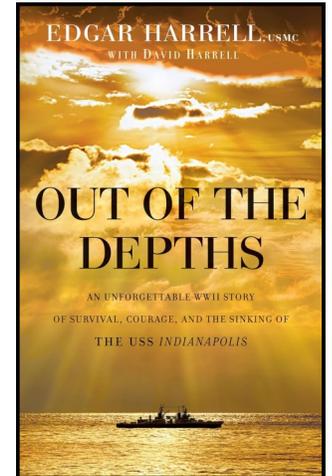
Recommended Books to Start A New Year . . .



The attack on Pearl Harbor is well documented. If you're considering this book, you probably already know some or much of the history. This story will add new insights to your understandings of the attack and surrounding events. This book is a history book - meticulously researched and documented - telling the story of Douglas Wada, a Japanese American serving in naval intelligence at the time of the attack: his work, his family, his relationships, his Japanese American heritage.

July 30, 1945: After transporting uranium for the atomic bomb that would soon be dropped on Hiroshima, the **USS Indianapolis** headed unaccompanied toward a small island in the South Pacific. At 12:14 a.m., she was struck by two Japanese torpedoes, rolled over, and sank.

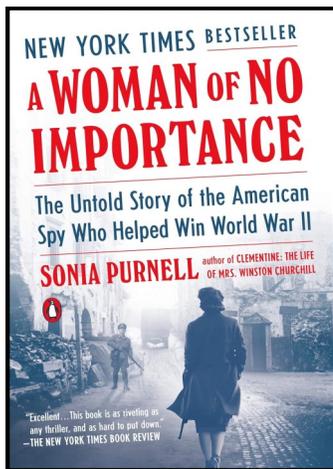
Marine survivor Edgar Harrell vividly describes the horrors of being plagued by dehydration, exposure, saline poisoning, and sharks. This is a story of courage, ingenuity, and faith in God's providence in the midst of the greatest catastrophe at sea in the history of the U.S. Navy.



Winner of the Plutarch Award for Best Biography. "Excellent...This book is as riveting as any thriller, and as hard to put down." -- *The New York Times Book Review*

"A compelling biography of a masterful spy, and a reminder of what can be done with a few brave people -- and a little resistance." - NPR

"A meticulous history that reads like a thriller." - Ben Macintyre A never-before-told story of Virginia Hall, the American spy who changed the course of World War II, from the author of *Clementine*.



Please send us suggestions for future programs!

Upcoming speakers for 2024:

February: Ira Rhodes

March: Dr. Shively on Guadalcanal

April: Linda Minton

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 _____