



THE ATLANTA WORLD WAR II ROUND TABLE

PRESERVING HISTORY

INTERNET: <http://www.atlantawwiiroundtable.org>

VOL. 25 No. 7

247th MEETING

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Newsletter

- * Doug Huggins
- * James (Jim) L. Starnes
- * Fletcher Thompson/Randolph Goulding
- * Marilyn Pahr/John Davis/Guy Condra
- * Jay Lenny/Bob Rivers

Elected Officers 2010-2011

Commander – Fletcher Thompson
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Dep. Finance Ofc: Guy Condra
Sgt.-at-Arms – Bob Rivers (Capt.)
Tel: 770-592-5611

Sgt.-at-Arms – Bill Shepherd
Sgt.-at-Arms – Lee Weinstein
Chaplain – Bill Sperry (Lead)
Tel: 770-452-1309

Asst. Chaplain – B.G. Harold A. Dye

Asst. Chaplains – Guyton McCall / H.T. Maclin

Date: MARCH 17th, 2011 (THURSDAY) >> Next Meeting APRIL 21st

Time: Social Half-Hour: 11:00 AM - 11:30 > MEETING START
TIME 11:30 - Speaker Immediately Following Lunch

** **PETITE AU BERGE RESTAURANT**
2935 N. Druid Hills Road, Web Site: www.petiteauberge.com
Atlanta, Georgia 30329 (Restaurant Phone: 404-634-6268)

Price: \$ 15.00 Per Plate ** NO RESERVATION REQUIRED **

Speaker: Jerald Douglas (Doug) Huggins

Subject: “The U.S.S. St. Louis, *The Lucky Lou*”

Mission Statement

We, who by our own actions, and by our heritage, know that liberty has not, is not, nor ever will be free, do in association with our friends and comrades, who believe as we do, pledge that we will meet at the call of our Commander no less than ten times a year:

- * To hear of the war experiences of our members and invited guests
- * To encourage and demonstrate pride in our country and its armed forces
- * To pass on to posterity our knowledge of World War II, and of the price - human and material - that was paid by our nation for the preservation of liberty in the United States and the world

Speaker for MARCH 17th, 2011–Doug Huggins (To Be Introduced By Deputy Commander Goulding)

Doug was born on November 18th, 1922 in a farming area of North Texas. He and a High School buddy enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1940 and graduated Navy Boot Camp in San Diego. Doug's first assignment was to the *U.S.S. St. Louis* (CL-49) dry-docked in Vallejo, CA. The *St. Louis* sailed for Pearl Harbor for training exercises in the Hawaiian waters. The *St. Louis* was the lead ship in her class of *Light Cruisers*, and the 5th ship in the U.S. Navy named after the city of St. Louis.

Doug was onboard the *St. Louis* on the day of the Japanese attack, December 7th, 1941. The *St. Louis* was moored to the pier in the Southeast Lock at the time of the attack. Within a few minutes of the attack, the ship was at general quarters and firing her anti-aircraft guns at the Japanese attack planes, shooting down three enemy aircraft before moving away from the pier and heading for the South Channel and the open sea to join in the search for the Japanese strike force. A Japanese mini-submarine attempted to engage her as she moved into the Channel, firing its torpedoes, but they exploded on a nearby shoal after which the Midget Sub got pounded by depth charges. For its success during the attack on Pearl, the ship was given the nickname ‘*Lucky Lou*’

The High School buddy that Doug had joined the Navy with was not so lucky, he was killed onboard the *U.S.S. Arizona* that day, one of the first to be killed in the attack.

Doug would go on serving as a Electricians Mate aboard the *St. Louis*, sailing about 90,000 miles, principally as a escort ship to Marine troop and plane ships, doing shore bombardment and engaging the enemy wherever she encountered them.

After service on the *St. Louis*, Doug served on two *Minesweepers* and a PC Boat, the *USS PC478* in the South Pacific. He was discharged on Dec. 20th, 1946

Please welcome Doug Huggins as our MARCH 17th, 2011 speaker. (247th Meeting)

Review of FEBRUARY 19th, 2011 Speaker –James (Jim) L. Starnes (Introduced by Deputy Commander Goulding)

The February banquet had a record number of members and guests on February 19th, a total of 176. The Petite graciously allowed the Round Table access to the entire restaurant with the *hors d'oeuvres* being served in the main dining room. Jill Sherman sang and entertained us along with *Stew McGhee Trio* and the tables in our regular room had been beautifully laid-out with flowers and Valentines Day candy by Kay Secrist. Honorable mention also goes out to the Round Table teams handling the management of the event, including our Finance Team, Jay Lenny and Guy Condra; Sergeant-at-Arms team with Captain Bob Rivers, Bill Shepherd and Lee Weinstein; Overall management team of Commander Thompson and Deputy Commander Goulding along with Assistant to the Commander John Davis maintained a roving-style management of the event.

After Assistant Chaplain H.T. Maclin opened the Banquet with a prayer, a proper salute to the flag was made with all singing *The Star Spangled Banner*. Our guest speaker, Jim Starnes, along with audio-visual assistance from Marilyn Pahr, Ted

Jim's role in World War II was certainly highlighted by his service onboard the *U.S.S. Missouri* as both its Navigator and Officer-On-Deck during general quarters and special occasions. Jim was also responsible for keeping the logs of the *Missouri*. Although the official log book for the *Missouri* is in the Truman Library in Independence, Missouri, Jim has a copy and knows it by heart.

Jim recollected that he was fortunate at a young age in 1940 to be able to enroll in the Navy's V-7 Program at Emory University and after completion he was commissioned an Ensign and enlisted in the U.S. Navy. His thinking then was to "join the Navy and see the world." As Jim said, "through circumstance, chance and choice, I never imagined what was to come."

Jim's first assignment was to serve onboard the *U.S.S. Boise* at Pearl Harbor as Assistant Navigator. The *Boise* stayed on the West Coast and in Hawaiian waters until November 1941 when she escorted a convoy to the Philippine Islands, arriving on November 4th, 1941. On reflecting a bit on what happened at Pearl Harbor On December 7th, Jim said the military knew the U.S. was going to be attacked but was surprised that the Japanese didn't seize the moment and occupy the Hawaiian Islands after the surprise attack, which would have made it hard for the U.S. forces to dislodge them and might have enabled the Japanese to conduct raids on the U.S. West Coast almost at will. *Divine Providence* might have led to the Japanese being blinded to this option, and in Starne's view, had it happened, the war in the Pacific would have turned out far worse for America and the world.

The *Boise* would later participate in a battle to stop the *Tokyo Express*, which was supplying the Japanese forces with reinforcements and supplies for their bases in the South Pacific, later named *The Battle of Cape Esperance* near the Solomon Islands Oct. 11-12, 1942 the ship was heavily damaged and nearly 300 of its crew killed or injured.

Shortly after being detached from the *Boise*, and through chance, he was assigned to the Navigation School in Newport, Conn. to polish his Navigational skills. Heading back to the U.S. on a Dutch transport ship, he had a chance encounter with someone he never expected to meet; German Field Marshall Erwin Rommel's brother, Dutch Airforce Captain Wilhelm Rommel, who was fighting against the Japanese. The following June in 1944, Jim graduated Navigation School and was immediately assigned to the *U.S.S. Missouri*, the Flagship of Admiral Halsey's Third Fleet, as Lt. Commander.

In his final remarks to us that day, Starnes reiterated to us that it was through "circumstance, chance, choice, fate, and the luck-of-the-draw" that he would wind-up in one piece onboard the deck of the *U.S.S. Missouri* to be a eyewitness to history on September 2nd, 1945 in Tokyo Bay, with binoculars hanging from his neck, welcoming General MacArthur and the other dignitaries on board the *Missouri* as well as the Japanese military and political party to sign the surrender documents.

Thank you Jim for your service with the *U.S.N.*, and onboard the *U.S.S. Boise* and *U.S.S. Missouri* and for *Preserving History* with us. Yours' was a job well done. Brigadier General Harold A. Dye closed the Banquet with a prayer for all.

Please welcome Morgan Robertson and Greg McClelland as our newest members of the Round Table at our March 17th, 2011 meeting. These members joined us in January but will be inducted into the Round Table at the March meeting.

>>> **Upcoming Speakers for - 2010-2011** Program chairman John Davis and program co-chairman Bill Owens have done a splendid job in lining up a wonderful list of speakers for the Atlanta WW II Round Table for our January through June 2010 meetings. The following speakers will be making a presentation to the Round Table in: **March – Doug Huggins (U.S. Navy); April – Marvin N. Worthy (U.S. Army); May – Dr. Susan Young (Redstone Arsenal); June – Visvaldis (Vis) Kimenis (Special).** More info to come on future speakers as they are booked. Please note that the speaker's engagements are subject to change. Thank you John M. Davis and William (Bill) Owens for your continuing efforts to seek-out and engage excellent speakers for our meetings and for a job exceedingly well done.

>> **CALANDAR OF EVENTS**
No events to report at this time.

>>> **SPECIAL MEMBER SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS**

>>> **REQUESTS BY INDIVIDUALS TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENTS AT ROUND TABLE MEETINGS** – In a effort to not interfere with our scheduled speaker's allotted time and also to allow more time during our lunch for table-conversation, the Atlanta WW II Round Table Executive Board has approved the following policy: ***Requests by individuals to make announcements during the Atlanta WW II Round Table meetings must first be cleared through the Commander prior to the date of the meeting.*** The number of announcements will be limited at each meeting and will also be based on priority of interest to the Round Table. Commander Thompson may be contacted at 770-952-4812 or via email at fandkt@yahoo.com

>>> **COMMANDER'S REQUEST** – *Commander Thompson is requesting that all members should make our Chaplain and Asst. Chaplains aware of any member who is sick, stricken, or seriously ill. This can be done at the monthly meetings or by calling Chaplain Bill Sperry at 770-452-1309. Asst. Chaplain B.G. Harold A. Dye can be reached at 404-315-9253; Asst. Chaplain Guyton McCall at 404-237-1011 and Asst. Chaplain H.T. Maclin at 404-377-3178*

>>> **(NEW) AWWIIRT Directory:** Is your Membership Directory up-to-date? I still have two sets of update packets – one set includes the List of Commanders and Mack Abbott's profile; the other has the "Kilroy was Here" and Marilyn Pahr entry. Check to see if you have these in your copy, if not, please pick one up at the March meeting. Membership Directories will be available for paid members who have not received theirs. Marilyn can be contacted at 404-888-0767 or via email: mpahr@emory.edu

>>> **(UPDATED) AWWIIRT Lending Library** – We continue to add titles and now have a library numbering over 200 titles. A selection will be available at the monthly meetings for members to "check out" and read or view at their leisure. Contact Marilyn Pahr if you wish to donate books, videos or DVDs related to WWII. (see above for contact info)

Monthly Quotations: "Uncommon valor was a common virtue"

"The battle of Iwo Island [Jima] has been won. The United States Marines, by their individual and collective courage, have conquered a base which is as necessary to us in our continuing forward movement toward final victory as it was vital to the enemy in staving off ultimate defeat.... Among the Americans who served on Iwo Island, uncommon valor was a common virtue."

Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, 17 March 1945.