If you are a veteran, or know a veteran, of one of these campaigns – contact Don Patton at cell 612-867-5144 or coldpatton@yahoo.com
The Round Tablette

The CG-4A had a wingspan of 83.6 feet and an overall length of 48 feet. Since gliders only made one way missions they were constructed from common, and inexpensive materials like steel tubing, canvas, and plywood. After the aircraft’s mission was completed, it was left for the local population to recycle it. Only about 6,000 men qualified as glider pilots. After their combat landing, they became infantrymen until they were able to rejoin their unit in order to fly their next mission. This duality of their military training and experience sets them apart from other World War II air corps personnel.

American forces first used gliders in the invasion of Sicily (OPERATION HUSKY). They were also used in the Pacific Theater in OPERATION THURSDAY in Burma, and in Luzon. The most famous use of gliders was in OPERATION OVERLORD in June 1944. They were also employed in OPERATION MARKET GARDEN, and in crossing the Rhine. Special glider assault regiments were part of the 11th, 13th, 17th, 82nd and the 101st airborne divisions. The troops landing by gliders were referred to as air landing troops rather than paratroopers, who landed via parachutes. Both air assault forces were used in Normandy.

The history of the military gliders and their pilots is a little known tale in the annals of World War II, but that should never detract from the audacity shown by these men in carrying out their missions. Sometimes the lesser known stories dazzle the imagination the most.

Further Readings:
Donald J. Rich & Kevin William Brooks, Glider Infantrymen: Behind Enemy Lines in World War II (Williams-Ford Texas A&M University Military History Series) (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2011)

Announcements:
Twin Cities Civil War Round Table - Oct. 21, 2014 – Rebel POWs - www.tccwrt.com - info@tccwrt.com
St Croix Valley Civil War Round Table - Sept. 29, 2014 – Antietam - 715-386-1268 – rossandhaines@comcast.net
Rosechester WWII History Round Table -507-280-9970; www.ww2roundtable-rosechester.org
Honor Flight - Jerry Kyser - cravayerry45@hotmail.com - 651-338-2717
CAF - Commemorative Air Force - www.cafm.org 651-455-6942
Minnesota Air Guard Museum - www.mnangmuseum.org 612-713-2523
Friends of Ft. Snelling, www.fortsnelling.org

We need volunteers to drive our veterans to and from meetings. Please contact Don Patton at cell 612-867-5144 or coldpatton@yahoo.com

Round Tablette Schedule 2014 - 2015
23 Oct. Thai-Burma Death Railroad
13 Nov. Deutsch Lecture: The OSS
11 Dec. Christmas at Bastogne
8 Jan. Myth of the German Offensive
12 Feb. Italian Struggle
12 Mar. Logistics of War
26 Mar. Return to the Philippines
9 Apr. Air War in the Mediterranean
14 May Retrospective: Goals of WW2 Leaders

See our programs on YouTube at http://youtube.com/ww2hrt

“Ours” glider, on display at the Fagen Fighters Museum

Gladen often landed too close together