The Round Tablette

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Tuesday, 27 October 2026
40:04 Volume 40 Number 4
Published by HCD WWII History Round Table
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www.mn-ww2roundtable.org

Welcome to the second October session of the Dr. Harold C. Deutsch World War II History Round Table.

Tonight's speaker is Richard Sherman, author of *Never Home*. He will discuss the American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries around the world where our Service members are buried and provide some significant facts about some of the veterans interred in them.

At the beginning of the movie *Saving Private Ryan* (1998), the elderly Pvt. James Ryan walks through an American Cemetery in Normandy. The rows of crosses intermingled with the stars of David show the cost of World War II in ways that a bar graph never could. The old man searches not for his brothers but for the man whose final words to him were "earn this." In the final scene, Ryan seeks redemption and asks his wife to bear witness to the stone marker that he did fulfill Capt. John Miller's dying wish. The fictional character's walk through that cemetery provided a touchstone for so many veterans regarding their friends left behind.

Over 200,000 American service members from World War I and World War II are interred at overseas cemeteries with one in the Philippines and twenty-two in Western Europe. The first cemeteries were started during the Great War, where the amount of dead were too high to be able to bring them home. The same was true for the Second War even as the fighting moved around the first war's cemeteries, each side trying to respect the sacrifice of their enemy.

Some of the names on the markers are well known, including General George Patton, and Medal of Honor recipients Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr, and 1st Lt. Quentin Roosevelt. Standing beside these heroes are everyday "joes" who marched, the Army Air Corps pilots who fell from the skies, the sailors lost to the surrounding seas, and the Marines who charged into the breach. Not to be forgotten are the lesser known, nurses, civilians, doctors, lawyers, and the over 7,000 only known to God. While many in the present day preach about diversity, they fail to note the variety of Americans who sacrificed – Japanese Americans, African Americans. Native Americans, and Americans of European descent. A country of immigrants that sent its sons and daughters to save the world from tyranny.

The Memorial Day Eagle at Fort Snelling National Cemetery

The list of American cemeteries is a catalog of the battlefields from the World Wars: St. Mihiel, Somme, Meuse-Argonne, Oise-Aisne, Normandy, Ardennes, Flanders Field, Sicily-Rome, North Africa, and in the Pacific Theatre: Manila. These may be spread out, but they all have the markers of the fallen.

When people drive by the military cemeteries some turn their heads not able to bear the stark reminders of such a loss. For

others the shear amount of crosses can cause them to stare trying to find the edges of such a mournful place. Hopefully, most will say a silent prayer and feel a sense of gratitude for those who, as Abraham Lincoln stated in the Gettysburg Address, "gave the last full measure of devotion."

Further Reading:

Richard Sherman, *Never Home: Remembering the Military Heroes Who Never Returned* (2024).

Patrick K. O'Donnell, *The Unknowns: The Untold Story of America's Unknown Soldier and WWI's Most Decorated Heroes Who Brought Him Home* (Ashland, OR: Blackstone Publishing, 2018).

Dean W. Holt, American Military Cemeteries: A Comprehensive Illustrated Guide to the Hallowed Grounds of the United States, Including Cemeteries Overseas (Jefferson, NC: McFarland Publishing, 1992).

Robert M. Edsel, *et.alii.*, *Remember Us: American Sacrifice, Dutch Freedom, and A Forever Promise Forged in World War II.* (New York: Harper Horizon, 2025).

Announcements:

Twin Cities Civil War Round Table – 17 Nov. 2026 – *"Last Days of Stonewall Jackson"*– Historic Ft. Snelling. www.tccwrt.com – e-mail: info@tccwrt.com

Minnesota Military Museum, Camp Ripley, 21702 Haven Road, Little Falls, MN 56345. 320-616-6050. http://www.mnmilitarymuseum.org.

8th AF Historical Society of MN, Place TBA, 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 1100. https://www.8thmn.org.

Wings of the North – Eden Prairie- 952-746-6100 - www.wotn.org

Friends of Ft. Snelling - www.fortsnelling.org

Alliance Française 612-332-0436 - www.afmsp.org

Friends of the National WW II Memorial – http://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org.US

Pittsburg Veterans Breakfast Club - http://www.vbcphg.org.

Western Naval Historical Association – info@wnha.net

WWII Discussion Forum – wwiidf.org

History Happy Hour - Sundays, 3 pm - www.historyhappyhour.com

CAF - Commemorative Air Force - 651-455-6942 - www.cafmn.org

Honor Flight - Jerry Kyser - 651-338-2717 - jkyser45@gmail.com

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 Table Schedule 2026 – 2027

10 Nov.	Ike and Winston
8 Dec.	Pearl Harbor – 85 years on
	2027
12 Jan.	East Front: Guderian's Panzers
9 Feb.	War in Yugoslavia
9 Mar.	China-Burma-India: Stilwell
23 Mar.	"The Dangerous Shore"
13 Apr.	Fall of the Philippines – 85 years on
27 Apr.	Naval Battles of World War II
11 May	Patton: January – December 1945

The Round Table is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. We would greatly appreciate your supporting the HCDWW2HRT.

In Flanders' Fields
Lt. Col. John McRae
1915

In Flanders fields the poppies blow *
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

*McRae wrote "grow" but the first (and many subsequent) published versions have "blow."

ORATE PRO ME, MILITE QUONDAM, NUNC MORTUO.

PRAY FOR ME, ONCE A SOLDIER, NOW DEAD.

Florence American Military Cemetery