

The Roundtable Forum

Official newsletter of the
Battle of Midway Roundtable

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AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2024



~ INTRODUCTION ~

Most of you recently received notice that our editor and webmaster, Thom Walla, has suffered a medical issue that will prevent his active management of the BOMRT for a while. His problem is recoverable and we can expect to see him back here at some point, but I will try to fill in for him until that happens.

There are some technical reasons why I cannot do a Roundtable newsletter exactly the same as Thom, so I'm hoping that everyone is okay with a .pdf file like this one. A .pdf can be opened with just about any device, plus you can download and save it offline if you want. (We had a couple of .pdf newsletters as an experiment in the September and October 2021 issues. If you'd like to review those, [click here.](#))

Since Thom's last newsletter was the July issue, we're calling this one "August-September" to get caught up with the calendar. I'll have an October issue out for you in a few weeks.

Important: until Thom is back with us 100%, don't send email to his usual Roundtable address, midwayroundtable@gmail.com. Instead, send it to my own address, midway.rt@gmail.com for a prompt reply or inclusion in the next

newsletter. Be sure to see the special note below, under “Now Hear This” concerning how to avoid missed emails.

—Ron Russell
28 September 2024

~ **AROUND THE TABLE** ~



MEMBERS’ TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE:

1. Best wishes to Thom Walla
2. Happy 100th to *Yorktown* vet Robert Taylor
3. Julian Hodges, final muster

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1. BEST WISHES TO THOM WALLA

Ed. note: the following is just a sample of the many kind messages received on this subject after it was announced in late September. To everyone who sent comments like these, you can be assured that Thom appreciates them all.

26 September 2024
From: Jon Parshall
Minnesota
Co-author, *Shattered Sword*

Please pass along to Thom if you get into contact with him, best of luck with whatever he’s dealing with, and I’m thinking of him.
Be well,
—Jon

26 September 2024
From: Howard Ady III
Nevada

Our thoughts and prayers are with Thom and his family.
—Howard

26 September 2024
From: Warren Heller
North Carolina

When you have the opportunity, please pass along my best wishes to Thom (along with all of the others you are no doubt receiving). Much thanks to him for his years of good work on the BOM website.
—Warren Heller (Son of a Yorktown veteran)

26 September 2024
From: Paul Turner
Australia

Sad to hear, wish him well and speedy recovery
—Paul

26 September 2024
From: Don Boyer
Hawaii

Please give Thom my very best wishes for an early and complete recovery!
v/r
—Don

28 September 2024
From: Fred Seitz
Florida

Wishing Thom a hopefully quick and successful outcome. Thank you Ron for letting us know. Hope all is well with you, and I look forward to hearing future posts.

Best Regards,
—Frederick J Seitz III

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2. JULIAN HODGES, FINAL MUSTER

6 September 2024
From: Ed Fox
Missouri
(BOM vet, 6th Defense Bn, Midway)

The son of Julian Hodges, Stan Hodges called me this AM and informed me Julian had passed away in sleep last night. Julian was a boilerman on the *Yorktown*. Was injured when a Japanese torpedo hit. He and I shared the 80th BOM anniversary together at the Atoll and US Navy ceremony in the Punchbowl.

Edgar R Fox USMC/ARMY Ret almost
Life Member
Marine Corps League 993
American Legion 639
VFW 3404
Midway - Iwo - Korea

For those who have fought for it,
Freedom has a taste that the
protected will never know.

Ed, thanks for letting us know about Julian. Yes, we featured him and you in our 80th anniversary coverage in the [June 2022 issue](#) of the BOMRT newsletter. We will miss him, including that pleasant smile that seems to be present in all of his photos. Fair winds and following seas to an honored CV-5 and Midway vet.

(This picture of Julian is from our [March 2022](#) newsletter.)

—RR



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3. HAPPY 100th TO YORKTOWN VET ROBERT TAYLOR

31 August 2024
From: Mark Taylor
Florida

My dad turned 100 today and was interviewed by our local paper, the Lakeland Ledger.

<https://www.theledger.com/picture-gallery/news/local/2024/08/30/yorktown-veteran-robert-taylor-celebrates-his-100th-birthday-photos/75020083007/>

Respectfully,
Mark R. Taylor

Mark, thanks for your message and happy 100 to your dad, a veteran of the *Yorktown* at Coral Sea and Midway. That's a great photo spread in your local newspaper, and everyone is encouraged to open the link above to see the entire article and its many pictures like this one:





Now hear this!

NEWS AND INFO IN THIS ISSUE:

- *No Right to Win*
- Not receiving email from the Roundtable?
- Editor's Notes

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NO RIGHT TO WIN

I'm reminded by a royalty payment every three months that, surprisingly, *No Right to Win* is still selling well in its 18th year. Conceived in 2006 at the urging of Roundtable members, the intent was to chronicle our Midway veterans' many tales that don't always make it into the more familiar histories, with added insight by our BOM authors and historians.

It has all of that, but there's the basic problem with anything you commit to print: once it's printed, you can't add to it or change it. But since many new members and followers have come to the Roundtable after 2006, some might not be aware that such additions and changes to *No Right to Win* are indeed available and easily accessible on this website.

So if you're a fan of the book, thank you sincerely, but be sure to follow through with its additional content if you haven't already. We have two key resources for it on the site:

1. On the blue toolbar at the top of the home page, hover The Roundtable's Book, click No Right to Win, then click Updates. Or, here's the direct URL:
<http://www.midway42.org/RoundTableBook/BookUpdates.aspx>
2. Over the years, the Roundtable's most enduring topic has been the *Hornet* air group's "Flight to Nowhere." That subject got a new in-depth treatment quite recently that has its own web page. On the blue toolbar, click The RoundTable, then Special Features, then "10. The Weisheit Transcripts." Or, the direct URL:
<http://www.midway42.org/Features/00-Weisheit-Transcripts-Intro.pdf>

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I suspect that most of our readers have already digested those, but be sure to check them out if you're new to the book. And in any case, profound thanks once again to everyone over the years who has contributed to the success of *No Right to Win*.

—RR

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NOT RECEIVING EMAIL FROM THE ROUNDTABLE?

With over 400 subscribers worldwide, it's inevitable that there will be a few problems with any broadcast message that we send out. One of the most common is non-receipt: "I signed up with the Roundtable months ago, but I never get anything from you."

There can be a few reasons for that, but this is the most common by far: our first message to you is seen by your spam filter as coming from an unrecognized source, so it diverts the message to your spam or junk folder instead of your inbox. Time after time, this problem has been solved by simply opening your spam folder, finding our message, and marking it "not spam." Thereafter, your spam filter should pass messages from the same source directly to your inbox.

Here's how you can guarantee that you won't be having this problem: add us to the contacts or address book in your email app. As a preferred source, your spam filter will normally ignore an incoming message from a listed contact. If you haven't already done so, we recommend that you do that now—add the following two listings to your contacts:

Midway Roundtable
midwayroundtable@gmail.com

Ron Russell
midway.rt@gmail.com

That will solve a major portion of the email problems that we encounter with everything we send out. Thank you in advance for helping us solve this problem.

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EDITOR'S NOTES

Sustaining the BOMRT over time requires managing a lot of message traffic, a complex website, and comprehensive newsletters, but none of that would matter without the active participation of you members and others who read the articles and send us your inquiries and comments. The Roundtable started in the last century as a collection of followers' email messages, and today we are still very dependent on that same basic ingredient in our 26th year. So keep them coming, and sincere thanks to everyone who continues to participate with us.

Finally, here's a heartfelt hope that our members in those areas affected by Hurricane Helene have all survived without damage or anything worse. It's tough to carry on normal business like this without maintaining acute concern for the challenges you must be facing.

Best wishes to all until the next issue.

—Ron Russell