

**Did you know?
APRIL IS
NATIONAL
AUTISM
AWARENESS
MONTH.**



☆☆☆
**WORLD WAR II VETERANS DISCUSSION GROUP
HAGAMAN MEMORIAL LIBRARY 203-468-3890
227 MAIN ST. EAST HAVEN, CT 06512**



April 2014

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, April 30th at 2:00 pm in the Hagaman Library DeMayo Community Room.

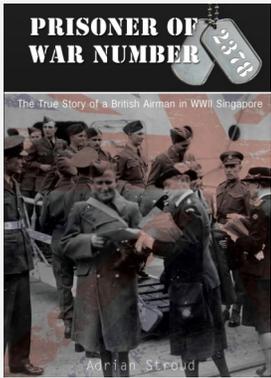
This month, **Adrian Stroud** of Waterbury, CT will speak about his book *Prisoner of War Number 2378*, which tells his father's harrowing story of being captured by the Japanese and subsequently incarcerated as a POW during World War II. His father's diary writings are a part of the book. (See book description at right.)



Adrian Stroud, right with his father, Kenneth E. Stroud. Photo: Nancy K. Crevier

About Adrian: Adrian Stroud served nearly thirty years as a police officer in Connecticut. Almost all of the time was spent on the street dealing with all the calls a policeman can encounter. Stroud served from Patrol to Cold Case Investigations in the Major Investigations Division. During his career he received numerous commendations for Meritorious Service. Adrian has a Bachelors of Science degree in Communications from Sacred Heart University in Fairfield.

Young British Airman Kenneth E. Stroud was enjoying his time in beautiful Singapore in 1942. The sights, the sounds, and the places were exotic and exciting. He was in his twenties and newly arrived from war-torn England. Little did he know that within a short period he would come face-to-face with the Japanese onslaught. Kenneth would begin a nightmarish odyssey of over three years of depravity, starvation, and man's brutality. He would be forced to wonder if the world had forgotten him and his sacrifice as he became Prisoner of War Number 2378. A belief that all should understand the ordeals suffered by World War II POWs in Japanese prison camps led Adrian Stroud to tell his father's story in the book.



Recent Donation Acknowledged in Honor of WWII Group Member

We'd like to recognize the recent donation given in honor of Martin Nobile's service. Martin, who served in the 94th Infantry Division, 301st Regiment, is seen here (right) escorting Holocaust survivor Wolf Zelinger in a 2011 event at the Hagaman library. Mr. Nobile would have been 90 years old this year.



WWII Group Member Martin Nobile (above right)



EXTRA! EXTRA! Do you live in East Haven? The East Haven Courier is looking for recommendations for their "Person of the Week" articles. Tell your story! Or recommend someone who lives in East Haven who'd like to tell their story! Call Fawn at 203-468-3890.

DID YOU KNOW?

"In theory, there is no difference between theory and practice. But in practice, there is."

- Yogi Berra



"Whiskey 7" To Fly Again Over Normandy

The next time military transport plane known as Whiskey 7 drops its paratroopers over Normandy, France, it will be for a commemoration instead of an invasion. Seventy years after taking part in D-Day, the plane now housed at the National Warplane Museum in western New York is being prepared to recreate its role in the invasion of Europe, when it dropped troops behind enemy lines under German fire. At the invitation of the French government, the restored Douglas C-47 will fly in for 70th-anniversary festivities in June and again release paratroopers over its original jump zone. In the pre-dawn hours of the invasion, the aircraft dropped troops over Sainte-Mere-Eglise who were some of the first to liberate that town.



Source: FNC

SONGS WE'LL SING IN APRIL

- What a Wonderful World
- Goober Peas
- Battle Hymn of the Republic
- America the Beautiful

GEM OF THE MONTH:

"A healthy attitude is contagious but don't wait to catch it from others. Be a carrier." - Tom Stoppard

-Clear Blindness-
By Faux Poe

In our conversation you questioned
"But you are blind how can you see?"
I believe you mean not have vision
But ability to Be!

Do you believe my life should extend?
To look at all you see
but often not comprehend.
Let's look another way

You look at the piano placed
there to stay
I may touch all the keys,
and learn to play,

listening to the music
any time of each day.
Smelling the flowers poised
there in perfect array

Listening to each Concerto many
fine days,
Enjoying them all
as I shall always.

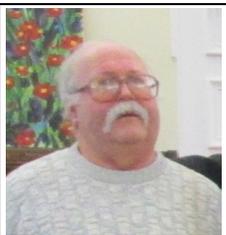
GERMAN WORLD WAR II STAMPS



Stamps of WWII Group member George McCaul that were used by Germany after the invasion of Poland when they called it "The General Government"

LAST MONTH'S MEETING:

In March, Nina Garrett read letters sent from her grandfather in Holland to her parents in Connecticut during the Hunger Winter of 1944 - 45. The detailed letters gave a graphic depiction of life under the Nazi occupation. Nina also talked about her year long stay in post-WWII Vienna, Austria, and her uncle, a Dutch railroad administrator who was held in the Kanchanaburi, Thailand concentration camp.



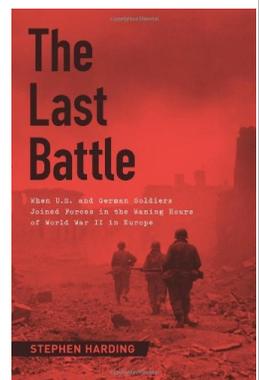
Steve Dougherty

BOOK RECOMMENDATION by Our Own WWII Group Member Steve Dougherty

The Last Battle: When U.S. and German Soldiers Joined Forces in the Waning Hours of World War II in Europe by Stephen Harding, 1952-

Release date: May 7, 2013

The Last Battle tells the nearly unbelievable story of the unlikeliest battle of the war, when a small group of American tankers joined forces with German soldiers to fight off fanatical Waffen SS troops seeking to capture Schloss Itter, Austria and execute the stronghold's VIP prisoners, a group of French politicians, generals and their wives and mistresses.



Left: Schloss Itter (Castle Itter), Austria

Site of what has been called "The Strangest Battle" of WWII, in which American troops of the 23rd Tank Battalion of the US 12th Armored Division, and anti-Nazi German Wehrmacht soldiers, defended the castle against a force from the German 17th Waffen-SS Panzer Grenadier Division. Fought on May 5, 1945.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

- Joseph Minto 4/9**
- Peter DiGuissepe 4/17**
- Harry Lawlor 4/23**
- Nile Heermans 4/26**
(Nile will be 101 years!)
- Marie Rascanti 4/29**
- Paul Collier 4/29**