



The Bugle Call Rag

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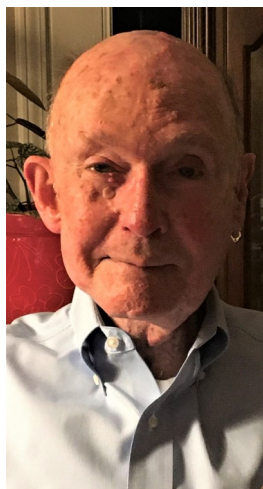
March 2023

MARCH GUEST SPEAKER — RAY NIXON

Our speaker this month will be Ray Nixon, a native Atlantan. Graduating from Brown High School in 1956, Ray went on to Georgia Tech, receiving his diploma and officer commissioning through ROTC in 1960.



Ordered to active duty with the Army in May 1961, 2LT Nixon reported to the Basic Infantry Officer Course at Fort Benning, GA, with a follow-on posting in South Korea for a one-year remote tour. Active duty service commitment was



completed at Fort Benning, GA in 1963, with follow-on Army Reserve service in the 81st Aviation Battalion, a unit of the 81st Infantry Division.

Ray worked 41 years with Georgia Power Company in various engineering assignments.



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THE WAY IT WAS — BCR 1988

The lead article in the March 1988 issue could have been written today. The post commander was singing the blues about membership attendance being poor. "We must," he wrote, "have more active participation if we are to survive, not to mention flourish. Keep in mind that members die, move away, but too many stay away."

Interestingly, the post was moving northeast from downtown. It selected

as its meeting site the Lanier Plaza Hotel, not too far from the present Sweet Water Brewing Company off I-85 North, near Monroe Drive. It was closer to our current meeting site at La Petite Violette on Clairmont Road from downtown.

One advantage of the new location was that meal prices started at \$12.75, which would equate to \$30.05 today. Also, the hotel had a place for the post's annual BBQ.



American Legion Post 134 members J.R. McAliley (left) and Fred Viele (right) helped provide a break for traveling service personnel and veterans, volunteering time at the USO Lounge and information stand at the Atlanta airport in February.

WHAT THE DEVIL, NEVILLE?

Written by John Ottley, Jr.

In the fall of 1938, many Britons wondered whether their prime minister, Arthur Neville Chamberlain (1869-1940), was going to challenge Adolph Hitler or invite him to tea.

Chamberlain's reputation remains controversial at best. Once highly regarded for preventing war with Germany at the 1938 Munich conference, he was later chastised for failing to prepare his country for war.

After working in business and local

government, and serving as Britain's Director of National Service, Chamberlain, then 49, won a seat in Parliament in the 1918 general election. Government service was not new to his family. His father and half-brother preceded him in Parliament.

Chamberlain was promoted to Minister of Health in 1923 and then made Chancellor of the Exchequer (chief financial minister). On 28 May 38,

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Neville Chamberlain

Chamberlain succeeded Stanley Baldwin (1867-1947) as England's prime minister.

England's pantywaist foreign policy of the 30's did not begin with Chamberlain, however. An early litmus test of Britain's will versus Hitler's arose in 1936 while Baldwin was prime minister.

The Rhineland, a former Prussian province, was occupied by Allied forces at

the end of WWI in 1918. The 1919 Treaty of Versailles forbade any German military from all territories west of the Rhine River, including the Rhineland.

Adolf Hitler (1889-1945) became Chancellor of Germany in 1933. He always had intended to negate the Treaty of Versailles and unite all Germans—including those in the Rhineland—even if it meant war.

On 07 Mar 36, in total violation of the treaty, Hitler marched 20,000 troops into the Rhineland and reclaimed it for Germany in total violation of the Versailles Treaty. Tumultuous joy spread throughout the German homeland.



It was a gamble. Hitler's generals were nervous because German re-armament had not yet reached a point where they felt ready to take on a well-armed nation like England or France. They needn't have. Neither France nor England thought they were prepared to intervene militarily and they didn't.

British Foreign Secretary Robert Anthony Eden (1897-1977), met with German ambassador to England Joachim von Ribbentrop (1893-1945) asking that Hitler withdraw from the Rhineland. *Der Fuhrer* refused and that was that.

After the map of Europe was adjusted at the end of WW I, some 3.1 million German speakers found themselves living in an area of Czechoslovakia known as the Sudetenland. Hitler wanted them reunited with Germany. At a speech in Berlin, he claimed that the Sudetenland was "the last territorial demand I have to make in Europe". He gave Czechoslovakia a deadline of 28 Sep 38 to cede the Sudetenland to Germany or face war.

Once again, neither France nor Britain felt prepared to defend the Sudetenland. Both anxiously avoided a military confrontation with Hitler.

On 28-29 April 38, French Prime Minister Eduard Daladier (1884-1970) met with Chamberlain in London to discuss the situation. Unable to see how Hitler could be prevented from occupying Czechoslovakia, Chamberlain argued that the Czechs should make territorial concessions to Germany. Most French and British politicians believed that peace could be saved only by the transfer of the Sudetenland to Germany.

Robert Kagan wrote recently in *The Wall Street Journal* that The Czechs were willing to take on the German army but could not win without the help of Britain and France, both of which could not defeat Hitler without the help of (thus-far) neutral—and largely isolationist—America.

On 15 Sep 38 Chamberlain flew to Hitler's mountain retreat at Berchtesgaden to talk face to face. Hitler agreed to take no military action without further discussion.

Chamberlain would try to persuade his cabinet and the French to accept the results if a majority of Sudetenland German-speakers voted to be annexed by Germany. Daladier and Chamberlain agreed that *all* Czech areas where the population was more than 50% Sudeten German-speaking should be turned over to Germany.

On 22 Sep 38 Chamberlain again flew to Germany and met with Hitler at Bad Godesberg. Hitler now wanted the Sudetenland occupied immediately by the German army and all non-German Czechs evacuated from the area.

In a last-minute effort to avoid another world war, Chamberlain proposed that a four-power conference be convened immediately to settle the dispute. Reluctantly, Hitler agreed.

When Chamberlain announced the upcoming meeting in Parliament, one delegate yelled, "Thank God for the prime minister!" With a roar members on both sides of the chamber rose to their feet. Some wept with joy. There would be no war—at least not now.

Future British Prime Minister Winston Spencer Churchill (1874-1965), called it "the grossest act of bullying treachery since Benedict Arnold."

Chamberlain, Daladier, Hitler, and Italian dictator Benito Mussolini (1883-1945) conferred in Munich, Germany, on 29 Sep 38.

Two Czech delegates waited in a Munich hotel but were neither allowed to participate in the conference nor even consulted.

On 30 Sep 38, Mussolini introduced a plan that was

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accepted by all. It later became known as the Munich Agreement. Under it, the German army would occupy the Sudetenland by 10 Oct 38 and an international commission would decide the future of other disputed Czechoslovak areas. The Czechoslovak government later chose to agree.

Before leaving Munich, Chamberlain and Hitler signed a paper declaring their mutual desire to resolve differences through consultation to assure peace. Both Daladier and Chamberlain returned home to jubilant welcoming crowds relieved that the threat of war had passed.

Arriving at Heston Airport west of London the afternoon of 30 Sep 38, Chamberlain told the thousands



who had gathered in a driving rain that he had achieved “peace with honor. I believe it is peace for our time.” Policemen on horseback had trouble holding back the cheering crowd. On his way to Buckingham Palace, exuberant Londoners lined the road. Some jumped on the car’s running boards and joyously tapped the windows. King George VI appeared with Chamberlain on a palace balcony and waved to the mob below, totaling ignoring the protocol requiring distance between monarch and Parliament.

The London *Times* declared on page one, “No conqueror returning from a victory on the battlefield had come adorned with nobler laurels.” The *Sunday Express* trumpeted, “Thanks to Chamberlain, thousands of young men will live.”

Toy shops throughout the land featured Chamberlain dolls. English Poet Laureate John Edward Masefield (1878-1967) compared Chamberlain with Priam¹ declaring that the prime minister had been “divinely led”.

All was not peaches and cream however. Chamberlain was immediately challenged by his greatest critic,

Churchill, who said. “You were given the choice between war and dishonor. You chose dishonor and you will have war.”

There also was dissatisfaction in the United States. England’s failure to stand up more strongly to Hitler alienated many Americans and encouraged isolationists in Congress.

Ignoring the Munich Agreement, Germany occupied what remained of Czechoslovakia on 15 Mar 39.

The *New York Times* interviewed German General Alfred Ferdinand Jodl (1890-1946), former German Army chief of staff during his 1946 war crimes trial at Nuremberg, Germany. It quoted him as saying, “It would have been out of the question to try to defeat Britain and France had they opposed us (when we marched into the rest of Czechoslovakia). Jodl was convicted and hanged 16 Oct 46.

On 25 Aug 39, England and France signed a mutual assistance agreement with Poland. If any of the three were attacked, the other two would come to its aid.

Historian Lynne Olson wrote that no previous British government had promised to support a central or eastern European nation.

Hitler invaded Poland 01 Sep 39.

On 02 Sep 39, it was suggested that Hitler might sit down to a peace conference convened by Italy. Chamberlain told his cabinet that, since France had not yet declared war on Germany, it would be worth waiting at least a day. The peace conference didn’t happen.

At 2330 on 02 Sep 39 Britain issued an ultimatum to Germany to pull back from Poland. The Nazis didn’t and England declared war on Germany at 0130 on 03 Sep 39.



The Blitzkrieg through Poland.

PRIAM¹ King of Troy in the Trojan War.

NAVY MOM WRITES POTUS ABOUT DUCT TAPE

Eighty years ago, Vesta Stoudt, a U.S. Navy mom living and working in Illinois during World War II, wrote President Franklin D. Roosevelt to explain her solution for flimsy paper-based tape when her employers ignored her idea. While working in a factory, Stoudt identified a major flaw in how the industry was packing ammunition parcels for troops overseas—they were using paper tape with tabs to open, then the entire package was dipped in wax to make it semi-waterproof. This approach made the pages incredibly hard for soldiers to rip open in the battlefield when in need of more supplies. Stoudt developed a new approach: waterproof, cloth-backed tape to seal boxes more efficiently and allow soldiers easier access to the materials inside. President Roosevelt supported her idea, and he passed along her notes to the War Production

Board, which pushed the product known as duct tape into production (GI's called it "duck tape" because it was waterproof – like a duck's back). Today, duct tape is used around the world to repair all types of equipment and it is still used in daily-use items, and the military as well.



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Todd Copley — BCR Editor

Next Meeting — March 9, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	EC	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

2022-2023 Post Officers

<i>Commander</i>	James Poulin *	<i>Finance</i>	Bryant Roland *
<i>Sr. VC</i>	John Ottley, Jr. *	<i>Adjutant</i>	Mike E. Fallaize, Sr. *
<i>Jr. VC</i>	Herman Anderson	<i>Historian</i>	Walter C. Conway *
<i>Chaplain</i>	Rev. J. R. McAliley III	<i>Service Officer</i>	Rev Larry Robert

Executive Committee Members

John Ottley, Jr. *	(2021-2022)	Dave Mason	(2019-2022)
Al Alberghini *	(2021-2023)	Arnold Wall *	(2018-2023)
Walter Conway *	(2020-2023)	Fred Viele *	(2018-2023)
Sam Steger * (Ex-Officio Member)			

* Past Commanders

Regular Meeting — Atlanta Athletic Club
1930 Bobby Jones Drive
Johns Creek, Georgia