



VETERANS OF THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE  
**DUNCAN T. TRUEMAN**, CHAPTER 59

TEN HUT!!! G.O. #2011-11

We will meet at Monroe Country Club  
63 Still Rd. Monroe, NY 10950.

At 12:00 noon  
Thursday, November 17, 2011

Our guest speaker will be  
MM2 (SS) Julian Reynolds  
US Navy

SEE YOU THERE - And Bring a Friend!  
For Information call:  
Pres. ELIOT HERMON: 845-344-6181



## President's message

This is an important meeting, for two reasons. Its time for nomination of officers for the year 2012. Nominations for the offices of Chapter President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer will be accepted from the floor. A list of nominations will be included in the next meeting notice, and mailed or called in nominations will be placed on the ballots and mailed out following the November meeting. Election of officers will take place at the December meeting. Please mail back your completed ballots if you will be unable to attend at that time.

Please note: The proposed speaker for our October meeting will appear at the November meeting instead. Come, bring a friend, bring two, make our speaker feel welcome, and find out what the Navy does to earn its pay!

Our December meeting as usual is something special. As an added blessing... *to anyone who will be able to pick up a comrade/s and bring him/them to meetings we thank thee.*

## Generally Speaking

Our November meeting falling as it does on the 17<sup>th</sup>, follows Veterans' Day so quickly that the memory of our own time in uniform is still fresh in our minds. To me, however, I can never fully lose the memories of my early years, before our own service, when we all paused at 11:00 AM on Armistice Day, the entire country standing silent in memory of our fathers' service, and it always brings to mind that poem which we all learned in school.

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.

I call this to mind because we, too, have left our former comrades in our own "Flanders Fields", and because I have recently learned the following:

The last known combat veteran of World War I, Claude Stanley Choules, who

served in the Royal Navy died on May 5, 2011, in a Western Australia nursing home at the age of 110. And though his accomplishments were many -- including a 41-year military career that spanned two world wars -- the man known as "Chuckles" to his comrades in the Australian Navy was happiest being known as a dedicated family man.

Choules was born March 3, 1901, in the small British town of Pershore, Worcestershire, and World War I was raging when he began training with the British Royal Navy, just one month after he turned 14. In 1917, he joined the battleship HMS Revenge, from which he watched the 1918 surrender of the German High Seas Fleet, the main battle fleet of the Imperial German Navy during that war. Choules later joined the Royal Australian Navy and settled permanently Down Under.

Choules and another Briton, Florence Green, became the war's last known surviving service members after the death of American Frank Buckles in February, according to the Order of the First World War, a U.S.-based group which tracks veterans. Choules was the last known surviving combatant of the war. Green, who turned 110 in February, served as a waitress in the Women's Royal Air Force.

(Frank Buckles was repeatedly rejected by military recruiters and got into uniform at 16 after lying about his age. He survived being a civilian POW in the Philippines in World War II, later became the last surviving U.S. veteran of World War I, and died of natural causes in February, 2011 at his home in Charles Town, West Virginia. He was 110.)

## **Good and Welfare**

Ed Conroy's grandson, Adam Serviss, was recently promoted to Staff Sergeant in the USAF. He is assigned as the Crew Chief for an F-15, stationed at Lahenheath, England. This complements his recent marriage which took place this September just passed.

Chapter member Cy Leighton wrote to explain that he must miss our meetings because they come on the same day when he absolutely must be in his office, and concluded by sending the Chapter a contribution for use as is seen fit. Thank you very much, Cy, the thought even more than the gift is very much appreciated.