



# NEWSLETTER



Volume 9

Number 1

January 1965

## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR 1965 PRESIDENT

Dear Fellow Members:

I am looking forward to serving you in this new year. Many of us renewed old friendships at our reunion in Chicago. I hope you will make a special effort to attend our 18th Annual Reunion in Washington, D. C., June 25-26, 1965 at the Sheraton Park Hotel.

Your new officers hope to improve the value of your membership in the Association in the coming year. One of our objectives will be issuing of newsletters at specific times during the year in which we will try to present the kind of information which will cause you to look forward to each issue. Steps are being taken to secure not only movies of the memorial services in Norwich in 1963, but also of movies taken of 2AD units during the war. We plan to use these not only at the reunion, but also plan to make them available to sponsor regional get-togethers.

One of our objectives this year will be to increase our membership by 25%, or to a level of 600. As a first step towards this objective, I would like to personally ask each one of you to contact at least three prospective members and ask them to join. I believe the 2AD Association has a real potential for service to those who wish to maintain the friendships and memories of our association together during the last war.

Although a little late, may I wish all of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

Warren E. Alberts  
President -  
Second Air Division Association

## THE OCTOBER REUNION

A great time was had by everyone present at the reunion in Chicago last October. There was much reminiscing and story telling and all the good fellowship that goes with it. Jordan Uttal and his committee did an outstanding job of making the arrangements at the Chicago Sheraton and for the cocktail party, banquet, etc. Officers were elected as follows:

President	- Warren Alberts
Vice President	- Ray Hess
V. P. for Publicity	- Fritzie Snyder
V. P. for Membership	- Evelyn Cohen
Secretary	- Ray Strong
Treasurer	- Ray Hess
Immediate Past President	- Jordan Uttal

There was much informal discussion about another charter or group flight to Norwich. This is being considered by the Association and we are compiling a list of persons who might be interested. Be sure to return the enclosure. The people in Norwich are eager to welcome and entertain in their homes members and next of kin who would like to visit the

area and the Memorial Library. There is a permanent committee in Norwich who will handle arrangements in advance. Percy Young is coordinating the program for the Association. If you happen to be making a separate trip to Norwich, be sure to contact Percy.

General Kepner sent a telegram of regret at not being able to attend the reunion because of personal circumstances. We are looking forward to seeing him next June in Washington, however.

#### PLANS FOR 1965

As you can see from President Alberts' letter, we want to increase our membership. We have, at present, just over 500 dues paying members. A roster of these active members is enclosed. If you will look over this list, you will find many of your friends missing. The only way we can increase our membership is through the active members showing enough interest to contact their friends. Won't you please fill out the enclosed "report sheet" in order that we may follow up these contacts and get these people on our active dues paying roster. Each new member will be sent a copy of the brochure on the dedication (as long as they last) and also copies of the very interesting illustrated newsletters written by Jordan Uttal in November and December of 1963. I am sure that anyone who has not seen a copy of these newsletters describing the Library dedication will be anxious to receive one. President Alberts wants to write each new member a letter, also. Surely you are corresponding with some eligible members who have just forgotten to send their dues and have been taken off the list. Maybe you have some names in your address book or exchange Christmas cards with some. Why not pick up the telephone (after 9:00 P. M. long distance for only \$1.00) and talk to them. Your cooperation is mandatory if the association is to grow.

#### FROM THE MISCELLANEOUS FILE

From the Air Force Times, November 4, 1964--

"On retirement in 1958, Maj. Nevin H. Gibson, who was with the 93rd. Bomb Group put his 15-year hobby of golf-playing to work and became the author of "The Encyclopedia of Golf." It proved a hit on the open market and his second work, "The Encyclopedia of Golf Revised," published by C. S. Bonnes and Co., has hit the bookstores.

The revised golf encyclopedia contains answers to countless questions and new statistics for golfers in all levels.

A veteran of two wars, the major was with the 93d Bomb Group during World War II. This was the first Liberator group to go overseas. He served three years in England and North Africa."

From a Letter From Colonel Ben Walsh, Langley Field--

"I read with great interest the December 1963, Second Air Division Newsletter which was forwarded here from my last address. It was wonderful to note the fine reception which was afforded our members at this first reunion back in the Norwich areas.

I have been transferred here to Headquarters, Tactical Air Command as the Director of Concepts, Objectives and Policy, a job which at the moment really has me looking for my crystal ball. You may already be aware that Westy Westover, a Lieutenant General, is here as Vice Commander as well as Colonel Rockly Triantafellu, formerly a bombardier with the 389th, who is Chief of Intelligence."

Here is an insight into the establishment of the original 2AD Hq. taken from a letter from Ken Gregson--

"I was requested, in early '42, (having been connected for 24 years or so with the Motor Car industry), to try and sign up 32 officers for the Motor Transport Command. Well I did just that, then found myself with them. You guessed it, we were sent to Miami Beach and the Air Force.

My Secret Orders from there consigned me to Gen. Spaatz's 8th Air Force at 'Wildflower'. So I caught a ride to Wildflower, on the South American Banana Boat, Uruguay, with the 1st Bomb Wing. Finally arriving at 'Pine Tree', Hq. for 8th Bomber Command, I worked in Personnel under General Eaker a short time when one day a Colonel Hodges showed up and said, "You are to be my Personnel Officer. We leave to locate a Headquarters in East Anglia tomorrow. Will you see what you can pick up around this place when no one is looking, put it in those two Lorries out back, and in the morning two or three G. I's will drive the caravan up there. I'll be up there in a few days. You can locate us by contacting the R.A.F. headquarters up there. Stop at Windom up near Norwich and they will direct you."

We were delayed one day and we finally night requisitioned three typewriters, some pencils, pens and the little office equipment laying around about on desks. All the useless Army Regulations, Bomber Command couldn't use and a lot of other things, including 6 rolls of British Toilet Paper we would have to use in place of Typing paper that there was none of in the 'Kingdom' or so we were told, and about 35 British Bicycles, that were in one of the Lorries.

Traveling most of the day (after leaving late) we just couldn't find Windom, however, the Police took pity on us telling us Wymondham, was Windom and they directed us to Norwich.

We reached there just as 'Jerry' was passing over, so we ducked under the trees along Unthank Road, until after the festivities. Locating the Police Station we were directed to a pretty well hidden RAF HQ between Old Catton and Horsham St. S.F., about midnight, arriving there during the RAF mission. That was the first time that I had observed a plotting room with the WAAF busy with their sticks, shifting the model planes around.

When the Group Commander could break away from all this he directed me to The Officers Quarters of Horsham, where I found the Officers I was looking for and the British Liason Officers.

I was informed that a temporary arrangement had been made for us to take over the small British H.Q. at Old Catton so we drove the Lorries and their load over there where the G.I.'s and I managed to bed down for a couple of hours. For breakfast they had to rig up a special room for me as you know British Officers just don't eat with the men, except once a year at Christmas.

The British right away started to fix up Tents for the soon to arrive 2nd Bomb Wing, but Col. Hodges vetoed that and insisted we take over the Baracks. We got busy trying to wade thru the Snafu of really getting started, with the 95 men and 35 Officers of the wing.

Well, then two officers arrived from 1st Bomb Wing, Lieutenants F.V.P. Bryan and Fearing to set up a Control Room for Operations, and some days later the vanguard of the 2nd Bomb Wing arrived from Detrick Field in Maryland.

No time was lost in setting them at their tasks, training for the many different jobs to which they were to be assigned.

In the meantime some of our Airdromes were being occupied with 12th Air Force Groups, B26s under Col. Rutherford at Attlebridge, B25s and others at Hardwick. They were being trained for the African Invasion. However, about that time George Paul became Adjutant and Roy Sine, Personnel Officer and I became John Means farmhand over in Engineering, and we were moved over to Horsham St. Faith, lock, stock, and barrel.

During the early life of the 2nd Bomb Wing, we became acquainted with those wonderful people of Norwich, especially the Officials of the City, the County, the Air Ministry and the Military Forces with which we worked and were so ably assisted. Many names which are now lost in memory, The Lord Mayor, The Bishop, Chief of Police, The RAF, The WAAF, and especially one who I understand has gone to meet his reward, Commander Barret of the N.F.S., who gave so much of his time helping to train the Crash Crews, Safety Units, and others, so well remembered no doubt by Fred Bryan, Capt. Rossiter and others, to which it meant so much. He was instrumental in causing The Order of the British Empire to be conferred on Fred, and the M.B.E. on this writer. There were others that helped us tremendously. The Hotel Proprietors, Pub Owners, Store Managers, Bus Drivers, Railroad Employees, G.P.O. Employees. On yes, and last but not least, all the N.F.S. and Mr. Pine for the entertainment at the Dog Track at Sprowston.

So that was the birth of the 2nd Air Division, from four Officers and three men, to that enormous fighting outfit that did much in squelching Hitlers Mob."

Here is a quote from General Hodges received early last year.

"Yes, it was quite an affair and it was good to see many of those for whom I have great affection. Too bad you couldn't make it.

Had a nice letter from Ed Barnes recently; also from Ray Foote, who as you undoubtedly know has retired and is living happily with Roxanne in Dorset, Vermont. We see John and Geraldine Paver frequently now that they also, have adopted Texas (Austin) as their home. John looks fine, actually much better than he did when at Ketteringham. Seems to have taken a new lease on life."

Here are some excerpts from letters received after the brochure was mailed to next of kin.

From North Carolina:

"Next year if my health permits, my Oldest son (who stayed in England for four months before going to North Africa in the Air Force during the first fighting there) and I are looking forward to going with you in 1965."

From Pittsburg:

"The Second Air Division Memorial booklet reached me today and I have mailed my check to Miss Cohen for my associate membership and hope that in 1965 I will be able to make the trip to England. Information arrived too late for me to in 1963, but I am starting in ample time this year to make the trip in 1965.

From England:

"My wife and I were deeply and sincerely moved by the ceremonies of June 13th last year when your Memorial room and book of remembrance were dedicated. We were both too young to understand war, we did not lose anyone in the war, but now that we are older we now realize, and when I read the text of the dedication, I felt that someday I could say, 'thank you' for we owe more to those airmen who died, and to the U. S. than a lot of people realize.

"We are ordinary people, living at present with 'in laws' in the north of England, but by 1965 we hope to have our own home in the Norwich area. Our home will then be open to couples or individuals, young or old, who are members of your organization. I feel sure that they would find us most hospitable. I only regret that we have no home to offer this year. Those who, I hope, will eventually visit us will be doing us an honor. You have my word that as soon as it is possible for us to fulfill what I have written, I will write."

From California:

"After seeing the beautiful brochure, I have decided to go on the trip to Norwich, England, provided there is a cancellation or you can squeeze me in somewhere on a plane! I could not go last year due to illness. Thank you and the Second Air Division Association for sending me the interesting book explaining all about the wonderful memorial at Norwich.

From Tucson, Arizona:

"I hope to stay in England for two months and I would very much like to visit the Norwich Public Library and see

the Book of Remembrance. I have already made plans to sail on the Queen Mary and will arrive in England on the first day of June. Are you having special chartered planes to Norwich every year?"

From New Jersey:

"You may remember that I called you about the trip to Norwich last year, but as it turned out, I was unable to go. This year I will be in Europe and intend to be in England from July 16 through 23 when I will return home. I recently received a letter about the Hospitality Committee in Norwich and although I would prefer to stay at a hotel, it would be very nice to meet and visit with someone who lives there. Will you please let me know what would be necessary in order to make these arrangements."

And here is a copy of a letter received by Mr. Copeman, Chairman of the Memorial Trust.



CLARENCE HOUSE  
S.W. 1

12th March, 1964

*Dear Mr Copeman,*

Thank you so much for your letter and booklet, which I have laid before Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother.

Queen Elizabeth was most appreciative of your thoughtfulness in sending the account of the American Room, and is much looking forward to reading this history during her cruise in the Caribbean.

Queen Elizabeth remembers well opening the Central Library, and Her Majesty feels that the completion of this Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division will indeed stress the close ties that exist between Norwich and the United States Air Force in England.

*Jessie  
Secretary  
Christine*

Assistant Private Secretary to  
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother

T.D. Copeman, Esq.,  
Chairman.