

NEWSLETTER



Volume 9, Number 1

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

December, 1970

Williamsburg 1971 Target - Norwich, England Set for 1972

John P. Karoly Mourned By Association



JOHN P. KAROLY

John P. "Gus" Karoly, 1961 President of the Second Air Division Association, died suddenly at his home in New Florence, Pennsylvania on June 21, 1970.

Gus attended the Cincinnati Reunion and was an avid participant in activities. He eagerly supported the coming planned reunions and was especially interested in those for Norwich in 1972.

He was a leading force in the association program of gathering from each of the United States the stones that are now a part of the Memorial Fountain just outside the Memorial Room at the Norwich Central Library in England.

General Kepner Tribute

General Kepner in his letter to Evelyn Cohen said:

"It is hard to realize that John Karoly won't be around in the future to remember 'Who Is What' when members (new and old) attend our reunions. . . I had hoped

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2AD AUTHORS RECEIVE WIDE ACCLAIM

"The Mighty Eighth" (Double-day) by associate member Roger Freeman has received plaudits by reviewers in England and the U.S.

This book traces the early history of the U.S. 8th AAF followed by detailed accounts of its operations from the United Kingdom between July 1942 until V-E Day, with emphasis on the combat units, their men and aircraft, ending with a reference section accurate statistics on every bomber and fighter formation to serve under the U.S. 8th AAF Command.

The Second Air Division and the Liberator Units are covered in depth: names, places, aircraft. This is a book no Association member will want to be without.

Mr. Freeman was the main speaker at the June Reunion and the members present were awed by this book, copies of which were available for review.

"With Friends Possessed"

Holmes Alexander, widely known writer and newspaperman, former 392nd Intelligence Officer, wrote this vivid characterization of the companions of a man whose spirit and horizons have been unbounded—who has often experienced "The ultimate in spiritual liberty."

This is a memoir. From Mr. Alexander's Air Force years, we meet Ben Rector, who fell in love with

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Cincinnati Results 100% Freeman Scores Bullseye

Attending delegates to the June 1970 Reunion voted almost unanimously to hold the Association's 1971 conclave in the area of historic Williamsburg, Virginia. Despite exuberant, enthusiastic attempts, the California delegation was unable to swing the Golden Gate.

The Williamsburg area fits general consensus last year to not locate directly in the larger cities. Proximity to Washington, D.C. historic Richmond, Norfolk and Langley Air Force Base, Virginia suggest interesting nearby field trip possibilities.

Norwich for 25th

Big news was the overwhelming vote of the membership meeting attendees to consider Norwich, England for the 1972 Reunion.

Recalling the tremendous success of the 1963 airlift for the Memorial Library dedication ceremonies, delegates agreed the quarter-century reunion could have no better site.

Prior to starting arrangements, the general membership will be polled to determine the feasibility of this proposal. All members are requested to send comments to the Newsletter or to any of the association officers.

Cincinnati Big One

From nationwide revetments, crews taxied past the Cin-

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Second Air Division Association Eighth Air Force

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The President's Corner

It was with extreme pride that I accepted the office of President of the Second Air Division Association last June. Twenty-five years ago when I was flying as a nose gunner on a B-24, I had no idea that I would one day be President of such a fine organization. I hope that I will be able to serve the members half as well as the past Presidents.

Paul Trissel—the thanks of us all for a job well done as last year's President. He worked hard keeping the organization flowing smoothly and efficiently. Until I became involved with the many committees I did not realize how much time is required by so many people to keep a well organized association. So again I say thank you Paul. Betty and Bob Halpin, Chairmen of the 1970 reunion in Cincinnati deserve special recognition. The Carrousel Inn was a perfect spot. Plenty of activities for the families while the members were "hanger-flying" in room 1001. The pools looked refreshing, although I did not get the time to take a swim. Thanks to Betty and Bob for a job well done.

During this year I know we will increase our paying membership and our reunion attending members. If each of you could find time to attend just one of our reunions you would be made to feel so welcome that you will attend every reunion from then on. I had been a member since 1948 but never attended a reunion until 1963. I haven't missed one since! I look forward each year to seeing the many new friends I have made at the reunions. Sometimes I feel we should get together more often

than once a year. Many of the relatively new members have expressed interest in the 2AD pins which they have seen worn by some of the other members. I hope to be able to make these available to all members sometime in the near future.

Our plans for the 1971 reunion are for Williamsburg, Virginia. It is a beautiful city with many sight-seeing attractions for the whole family. For Civil War Buffs there are several nearby battle fields to visit. This may seem early to be thinking of 1971 reunion with the 1970 fling still in our minds, but plan ahead. We will have the biggest turn out yet.

I was shocked and saddened when I heard of John Karoly's untimely death. He was the type of active member that has kept the organization going for the past 23 years. "Gus" was always on hand at the reunions to give a friendly greeting and hand shake to new members as well as swapping yarns with old members. I am sure that he will be missed by all of us at future reunions and through the coming years. Our deepest sympathy to his family.

In future issues of the Newsletter I shall give you news of how the 1971 reunion is progressing and any other news items which may come up. Any ideas you may have in regards to improving the reunions or the organization in general, please write and let me know.

BULLETIN

At presstime Hathy Veynar (IIQ) announced a block of 50 rooms has been reserved at the Hilton Inn Motel, Williamsburg, Va. for the 1971 Reunion. Dates July 16-18. More information will be in the mails soon. Contact: Mrs. Milton Veynar, 4915 Bristow Drive, Annandale, Va. 22003.

Reunion . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

cinnati Carrousel Inn 2AD Hospitality Room Control Tower June 19, 1970 for take off on the Association's twenty-third annual maximum effort mission.

Tower operators and reunion hosts, Bob and Betty Halpin, reported the initial communication

interference worsened due to dispensing of pre-flight refreshments. Mission Medic, Doc Jacobowitz, prescribed unlimited tank top-offs.

Ground assembly started at 1600 in the Medallion Room of the Carrousel Inn where runway space was at premium. Heavy traffic on taxi strips was occasioned by crowds around reunion British honor guest Roger Freeman.

Initial weather reports of unlimited visibility proved misleading. Members reported light haze almost immediately after takeoff with rapidly worsening conditions three feet off the runway. In-flight snacks from the hors d'oeuvres table prevented several early ditchings.

Combat films provided by Paul Trissel provided instant replay of action in and out of target areas. No strike reports reached home bases, but Jordan Uttal reported next day there was considerable flak throughout the mission.

Freeman Smash

The 1970 reunion highlight was the banquet on Saturday, June 20 in the colorful Cascade Room of the Inn where over 150 members and guests enjoyed the german-style buffet fare.

Keynote speaker and association honorary member Roger Freeman held the audience in spellbound delight with color slides of each base as it is today.

Mr. Freeman's humorous and up-to-date commentary fascinated everyone. Bases now serve as everything from turkey farms to sites for building and testing the famous Lotus-Ford Racing Cars. The concluding slides of the garishly-painted B-24 assembly ships concluded a fabulous show.

Dancing after the dinner continued to the wee-hours to the music of an outstanding three-piece combo playing all the tunes so well known during the WW II era, from "Lili Marlene" through the Glenn Miller immortals. Yela.

Sunday Dispersal

Debriefing on Sunday, June 21 recorded the greatest reunion in years. Too much could not be said about the camaraderie and the sheer pleasure enjoyed by all who joined in this reunion. But all agreed it will be surpassed in 1971.

**Summary of Minutes
 TWENTY THIRD ANNUAL REUNION
 SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION**

Carrousel Motel, Cincinnati, Ohio, June 20, 1970

1. The meeting was called to order by President Paul Trissel.
 2. The minutes of the last meeting were read by the secretary and approved as read.
 3. The treasurer, Dean Moyer, submitted a detailed report which showed that the Association had over \$4,000 on hand.
 4. Miss Evelyn Cohen reported on the membership activities which showed some increase, although we continue to lose a few members from failure to pay dues.
 5. Mr. Jordan Uttal, Liason Officer with the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust and Chairman of the Library Book Committee, reported that a new clerk to the Board, replacing Mr. Walter, has been appointed. He noted that the \$109 collected last year had been forwarded to Mr. Hepworth, the Librarian, and commented on the need for books and periodicals for our American Room.
 6. Mr. Paul Burtner, Vice President for the Newsletters, reported on his activities as Editor of the Newsletter. He has expanded the format featuring one of the groups in each issue. Col. Gilman and others continue to show some interest in telling the story of 2 AD and the 6032 left in England.
 7. Mr. Roger Freeman, author of "The Mighty Eighth" and guest of the Association, from England, will send Paul Burtner the details on how his book can be obtained for publication in the Newsletter.
 8. Mr. Uttal commented on the ways in which we could support the Memorial Room at the Norwich Library. A motion was made and seconded that we allocate \$1,000 to be contributed either directly to the Library or the Memorial Trust Fund, depending on Mr. Hepworth's desires, \$500 in 1970 and \$500 in 1971. Motion passed. Mr. Uttal to contact Mr. Hepworth and to arrange for disbursement of the funds. He will report regularly in the Newsletter information of interest about the Library and the Memorial Trust.
 9. It was suggested that any members going to Norwich should contact Mr. Hepworth the Librarian, in advance, to find out what paper back books he would like to have and then carry them over since they can be obtained much cheaper in this country.
 10. It was suggested that we consider making a donation to the Air Force Museum at Wright-Patterson AFB and request a 2 AD display somewhere in the Museum.
 11. Report of Nominating Committee:

President	Ken Darney
Vice President for Newsletter	Paul Burtner
Vice President for Membership	Evelyn Cohen
Vice President for Executive Committee Coordination	Glen Tessmer
Secretary	Ray Strong
Treasurer	Dean Moyer
- Elected unanimously—(The above, along with Past President Paul Trissel make up the Executive Board.)
12. Reunion Site for 1971. After much discussion, the Williamsburg, Virginia—Langley AFB area was chosen.
 13. Moved and seconded that all Second Air Division members present at the meeting be appointed delegates from their respective groups and organizations to the Second Air Division Association, a veterans organization. (Note: Expense of delegates to meetings of veterans organizations are tax deductible as a contribution to the organization if not reimbursed.) Passed.
 14. Motion passed recommending that the Constitution and By Laws of the Association be reproduced in the Newsletter.
 15. Motion passed commending Bob and Betty Halpin for a great job on the reunion arrangements.
 16. Motion passed commending Paul Burtner for an outstanding job with the Newsletters.
 17. Motion made and passed directing the Treasurer to send Evelyn Cohen \$100 for hard work during the past year.
 18. It was suggested that the membership be surveyed to find out if there is interest in having the 25th Annual Reunion in Norwich in 1972.
 19. Meeting adjourned at 11:20.

491st GROUP HISTORY

The 491st Bombardment Group was activated on 1 October 1943, with cadre personnel drawn mainly from the 17th Anti-Sub Squadron—a Liberator organization with many months of patrol work behind it. The original Group Commander was Col. Dwight Monteith. A succession of short-term CO's followed, until Lt. Col. Carl T. Goldenberg was given the Group on 12 February 1944. After training at Davis Monthan, El Paso and Pueblo, the air echelon departed for England in late April of 1944. Ground personnel, drawn in large part from groups already in England, met the 491st Liberators at their first base—Metfield.

A short and hectic period then ensued, culminating on 2 June when the 491st flew its first mission against Bretigny Air Field near Paris. The Group had managed to become operational 8 days ahead of schedule and was appropriately commended therefor.

The 491st continued to perform in an outstanding manner—by the end of June it had completed 29 missions in 29 days for a total of 129 sorties, more than any other B-24 outfit in the 8th Air Force. By 25 April 1945 the mission total had swelled to 187, at a cost of 70 Liberators lost.

Sixteen of these went down in one tragic mission carried out on 26 November 1945 against Germany's Misburg Oil Refinery. Despite the crippling losses, the Group persevered to the target and bombed it effectively, winning for the 491st a Distinguished Unit Citation.

Col. Frederick H. Miller replaced Goldenberg as Group CO on 26 June 1944. Miller, in turn, relinquished command to Col. Allen W. Reed in October of that year. Col. Reed commanded the Group until VE Day.

Originally a member of the 95th Bomb Wing, the 491st transferred to the 14th Wing in August 1944 in a general reshuffling of 8th Air Force units which saw the 492nd group taken off daylight operations and the 491st take its place at North Rickenham. In the 14th, the 491st joined two old line outfits—the 44th

and 392nd—and did its best to perform credibly in such illustrious company. That they did so is shown by the following quote from the files of the 8th Air Force: "No other Group was ever committed to action so fast and flew so many missions in so short a time, achieving such fine results."

SPECIAL MISSIONS

In addition to its normal bombardment missions, the 491st flew supply drop missions in the Eindhoven area on September 18, 1944, and the Wesel area on March 24, 1945.

A special mission was flown against German general staff headquarters at Zossen, Germany on March 15, 1945.

RINGMASTERS HOT TO GO

The day was April 25, 1944. Brig. Gen. Newton Longfellow, commanding the 16th Bombardment Training Wing headquartered at Biggs Field, Texas, was on a tour of inspection at Pueblo Army Air Base, Colorado, and, while there, was taking the opportunity to address some 100 new crews that had just arrived at Pueblo to begin phase training. His talk, given in the base theater, dealt mainly with the importance and wisdom of safe flying—a subject the General could really warm up to. He was hardly into his talk, however, when all speech was rendered impossible by three B-24s passing close by the building at great speed and window sill altitude. Several additional 3-plane passes followed before the General could depart the theater for Base Operations in understandable ill-temper.

Outside the show continued. There were two rows of B-24 training planes parked on the ramp, providing three open lanes of concrete for taxi purposes. Three-plane elements would form up over the city of Pueblo, advise the tower to lower periscope, and then come down the ramp and runway at an altitude that would have set a world's speed record for taxing a B-24 had their gear been down. From the Base Ops area all one could see was whip antennas and vertical stabilizers

going by. A climax of sorts was reached when 1st Lt. Herbert J. Rock made his pass. For reasons unknown, the crew in the waist had lowered the ball turret without informing the pilot, and this slight protuberance exceeded Rock's calculated margin for error. The sight of 35 tons of airplane roaring down the runway with ball turret dragging, was enough to un-nerve even the most hardened of the spectators.

General Longfellow arrived at Base Ops just as one of the pilots of the last plane in the departing flight was filing his flight plan. The General's opening remark was brief, authoritative and to the point: "Just who in hell thinks he's running this air movement?"

The man on the receiving end of this highly rhetorical question was Capt. William M. Shy, 855th Squadron, 491st Bombardment Group (H). His feelings at that moment, although unrecorded, must have been filled with a renewed sense of anxiety for the 491st—a Group that had already had what it considered to be its share of disappointments and delays.

"The foregoing is from an article by Alan G. Blue which appeared in A.A.H.S. JOURNAL, 1964."

CAPSULE FACTS

Stations: Metfield, Number 266

North Pickenham, Number 143

Group Letter: Z

Squadrons: 852nd, 853rd, 854th and 855th

Tail Colors: Green with a vertical white bar at Metfield, white with diagonal black at North Pickenham

Squadron Codes: 3Q, 6X, V2, 28

First Mission: 2 June 1944

Last Mission: 25 April 1945

Distinguished Unit Citation: Misburg, 26 November 1944

Missions: 187

Sorties Flown: 5,280

Bomb Tonnage Dropped: 12,155 Tons

Enemy Fighters Claimed: 9

B-24's Lost on Operational Flights: 70



Merrell (Dep.C.O.) and Goldenberg (C.O.) shake hands immediately after arrival at Metfield, May 1944.



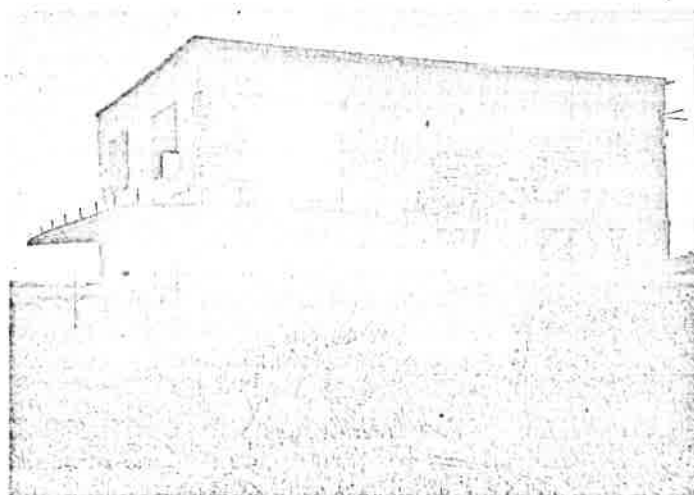
The Metfield Bomb Dump exploded on July 15, 1944. Here General Doolittle stands amidst the remains on his inspection trip, July 17.



491st Lt. Col. Jack Merrell and MGen Kepner. Must have been a good mission.

GROUP IN SIX CAMPAIGNS

- Air Offensive Europe
22 Mar 44 - 5 Jun 44
- Normandy Campaign
6 Jun 44 - 24 Jul 44
- Northern France
25 Jul 44 - 14 Sep 44
- Rhineland Campaign
15 Sep 44 - 21 Mar 45
- Ardennes Campaign
16 Dec 44 - 25 Jan 45
- Central Europe Campaign
22 Mar 45 - 25 Apr 45



METFIELD TOWER, AUGUST 1964. That last blast really did it.



Capt. Al Haydue, Lt. Jack Merrell

KAROLY

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to attend this reunion for special reasons. Maybe I just wanted to see all the old gang, and perhaps to say a last greeting to "Karoly." But I was tied up by illness and did not make it.

"Gus Karoly (John) occupied a distinct niche in my memory of several dedicated followers (members) in the 2AD. He was one of four enlisted men I could always depend on in tight spots during my whole career as Commander of various defense forces. But for such men as John Karoly, no officer could have a truly successful organization. He, along with John Cunningham and Percy Young were members who never spared themselves when the Second Air Division Reunions were to be held. No matter how hard they had worked, and succeeded in doing their own allotted responsibility. When something else came up, they were among the first to pitch in and see that the extra problems were successfully accomplished.

"The 2AD fortunately has many dedicated members still with us, who—I am sure—will carry our fine record of maintaining contact and old and treasured memories alive, as you have each reunion. While we shall miss John Karoly along with many others, we will not forget those who worked so hard for all 2AD members. John was outstanding among our founding members and past presidents. He was a great friend, great member of 2AD, and a great man.

"We are truly sad at his departure but we have been blessed to have had him as a member and friend. Thanks be to the great 'Commander and ruler of the Universe' for sending us men like John Karoly. May his reward in the 'great beyond' be peace and satisfaction for a job well done!

"I would offer sincere sympathy to his family, his loved ones, and those comrades who truly valued him for what he was, a loyal patriot and friend. 'Bless you,' John. . . ."

Sincerely,

W. E. Kepner

Lieutenant General,

USAF (Ret.)

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General Hodges Tribute

In his July 2, 1970 letter to Mrs. Karoly, General Hodges said:

"I am distressed to learn from Evelyn Cohen today of John's death. I hasten to offer you my heartfelt sympathy.

"John was held in affectionate regard by all of our little family at Ketteringham. In his big-hearted way he lavished cheer and attention upon us day after day during those trying times, making sincere and lasting friendships.

"I was proud of his friendship in those days, but most of all I am proud that ever since the conclusion of the war he has honored me with a continuation of that friendship. I shall miss him."

Most sincerely,
James Hodges
Major General,
USAF (Ret.)

AUTHORS

(Continued from Page 1)

Mardi, the author's wife; Leon Mac Varnish; Cap. Henry "Jo" Johansen, crackerjack bombardier who refused to send out his laundry for fear it would come back and he wouldn't.

Another fine book. Friends of the 392nd will find themselves here.

2AD ASSOCIATION BY-LAWS

I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the "2AD ASSOCIATION."

II. PURPOSE

The purpose of this association shall be to advocate and support an adequate, effective, and efficient Army, Navy and Air Force at all times; to perpetuate the friendships and memories of our service together in the 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force, in England; and to undertake such other activities as may from time to time be deemed appropriate by the membership.

III. MEMBERSHIP

The membership shall consist of all personnel, military and civilian, British or American, who at any time served with the Headquarters organization of 2nd Bomb Wing, 2nd Bomb Division, or 2nd Air Division at either Horsham St. Faith or Ketteringham during World

War II. Any person who served with any unit of the Second Air Division, either assigned or attached, and expresses a desire to become a member of the Second Air Division Association shall be eligible for membership. An active member is a dues-paying member. Dues shall be \$2.00 per annum, \$5.00 for three years, \$10.00 for seven years or \$25.00 for Life Membership.

IV. OFFICERS

The officers of this association shall be a permanent honorary president, a president, an executive vice president, three operating vice presidents (one membership, one publicity, one military affairs) and one vice president for each unit whose active (dues paying) representation exceeds fifty (50). The duties of the unit vice president will be membership and activities concerning that unit. Operating vice presidents shall be empowered to perform any duties, consistent with their office, without prior Executive Committee approval.

The officers term shall be one calendar year from 1 January through 31 December, except that the president be empowered to make interim appointments of unit vice presidents.

Two funds be created yearly of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) each for the use of the president and secretary to cover incidental expenses incurred in the effective performance of their duties. These funds may be expended at the discretion of said officers.

V. MEETINGS

It shall be the intention of this association to have one regular meeting per year at a time and place to be determined by the executive board. A quorum shall consist of all active members present and voting.

VI. EXECUTIVE BOARD

The executive board shall consist of the duly elected officers and such other individuals as the president may appoint.

VII. COMMITTEES

The committees of this association shall be the following, appointed by the president: Membership—Special Projects — Nominating — Convention.

(By-laws will be concluded in the next Newsletter)