

# NEWS LETTER

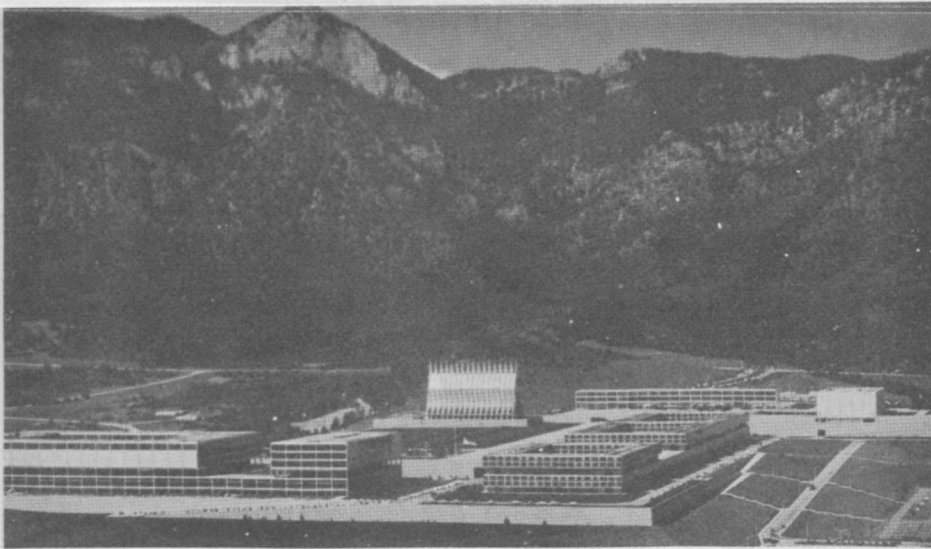
Vol. 11, No. 3

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

September 1973

## 624 TURN OUT FOR 26th REUNION

## \$1705.00 RAISED FOR MEMORIAL FUND AND BOOKS



The beautiful Air Force Academy

We dreamed about 600 attending. We hoped for 400. We would have settled for 300. But the hardy Second Air Division members turned out in force for this special occasion at the Air Force Academy and when the final tally was in 624 members, wives, offspring and assorted guests made this the greatest reunion we have every enjoyed.

Tom Eaton, Vice Chairman Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust, and son David traveled all the way from Norwich to be with us for our first reunion at the Academy. He brought with him, in addition to thoughtful gifts, the good wishes of the people of Norwich and the other members of the Board of Governors.

Col. Goodman G. Griffin and his lovely wife Bobbie tore themselves away from their Hawaiian paradise to sample the rarified atmosphere of beautiful Colorado and to greet the many friends they had made at previous reunions.

Joe Ramirez and George Dong extricated themselves from their plush pads in California to join with their buddies of the 467th BG in reminiscing about the exploits of their favorite plane,

"Witchcraft". Joe brought along a beautiful wooden model of the plane and was gracious enough to allow us to display it at the head table on the night of our banquet.

They came from everywhere. The wind swept plains of Texas, the friendly South, the rugged Northwest and the bucolic Northeast. If I were a gambling man I would be willing to bet that every State in the Union was represented.

Highlight of the reunion was, without question, our Memorial Service at the Air Force Academy Chapel. It was planned as a simple ceremony where Tom Eaton would present to the Association a copy of our Book of Remembrances listing the 6,032 names of our comrades who were killed in action.

It was planned that way but it turned out quite differently. The setting, and the ceremony itself, was so moving there wasn't a dry eye in the Chapel. Sitting there high up in the mountains with the clouds drifting by at eye level there was a certain serenity that could not be captured anyplace else. It was fitting for the occasion but devastating on the

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Our drive this past year to raise funds for the Memorial Fund and needed books for the library resulted in a whopping total of \$1705. It showed how one and two dollar donations can really add up.

\$1288.00 was raised as a result of our appeal with an additional \$417.00 donated at the reunion, \$917.00 of this amount was sent to England in the care of Tom Eaton to be used throughout the year for the purchase of books for the American Room. The remaining \$788.00 will be used to establish a Memorial Fund on this side of the Atlantic. The money will be used to purchase American Securities and the Fund will be administered by the present Board of Governors.

We are hoping that this small start is but the beginning and that future years will see it grow through the generosity of our members, and of their generosity there is no doubt.

Our thanks to all of you.

### NORWICH 1975

Plans are already well under way for a return trip to Norwich in May of 1975. In order to facilitate these plans it is necessary for us to ask for a \$25.00 deposit from all who plan to make the trip. These deposits will be non-returnable except for extenuating circumstances and should be sent to Charles (Joe) Warth, 5709 Walkerton Drive, Cincinnati, Ohio 45238. So if your planning to go please send your deposit to Joe as soon as possible. If you missed 1972 don't miss this one - you'll never forgive yourself.

## Second Air Division Association Eighth Air Force

### OFFICERS

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Vice President . . . . . WILLIAM L. BROOKS  
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549 East Main St., Evans City, Pa. 16033

### GROUP VICE PRESIDENTS

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389th BG . . . . . ALBERT A. KOPP  
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448th BG . . . . . KENNETH ENGELBRECHT  
204 S. Archie Ave., Granville, Ill. 61326  
458th BG . . . . . FRED J. VACEK  
186 Millbridge Road, Riverside, Ill. 60546  
466th BG . . . . . DR. JOHN JACOBOWITZ  
Lincoln at Millard, Three Rivers, Mich. 49093  
467th BG . . . . . RAYMOND A. BETCHER  
366 Reitman Ct., Rochester, Mich. 48063

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Just prior to leaving for this years reunion at Colorado Springs I spent some time reminiscing about the many events, pertaining to the Association, of 1972 and 1973.

It had been a fun-filled year in spite of the many problems. During this time, as President, I had the opportunity to work with many dedicated people - officers of the Association and non-officers.

To name only a few. Evelyn Cohen who never, when I called her, ran away and hid simply because she knew I had to be calling with a problem. Dean Moyer who never groaned and moaned when he had to write checks but did so cheerfully in the belief that money spent to advance the Association had to be money well spent. The mini-reunion Chairmen who responded to my request that they head up a reunion of their particular Group with out-right enthusiasm.

The membership had grown to over 1300 and the turn-out at this years reunion promised to be in the vicinity of 600 plus. I was satisfied, I was happy and I was quite content to step aside and let somebody else enjoy the honor - and it is an honor - of being President of the 2nd Air Division Association.

It was not to be.

As your newly elected President for 1973 - 1974 I want to thank all of you for this additional honor. It means that I will have to work that much harder this coming year to justify the trust you have placed in my hands, but I would be less than honest if I didn't say that I welcome the opportunity.

I was actually departing the scene, or so I thought, with the job only half

## LOG OF THE LIBERATORS

by  
Steve  
Birdsall



Nothing gives the Newsletter greater pleasure than to be able to announce that a book written by one of its members has been published and can be seen on bookstore shelves. There is one greater pleasure and that is to be able to tell our members that they can purchase the book from the Association at something less than the \$12.95 bookstore price - \$8.50 to be exact.

While Steve did not serve with the 2nd Air Division he has been interested in its history for many years. He has long felt that the two by four was being neglected by historians in favor of the more glamorous (????) kiddy-cart euphemistically referred to as the 'Flying Fortress'. He set out to put the record straight and in the process has written four other books.

The "Log of the Liberators" is undoubtedly his best and a very potent answer to Edward Jablonski's 'Flying Fortress'. We are proud to have Steve as an Associate Member of the Association and proud to number him among those who contribute to the Newsletter regularly with his 'Time To Remember' series.

done. The Second Air Division Association is very capable of listing over 2000 members. You have given me another opportunity to strike at this goal. It CAN be achieved, but only with the help of all of you.

This year we had six mini-reunions. The 44th, 93rd, 389th, 448th, 467th and 466th. At next years reunion I would like to see six more. I am now making a request for any member of one of the other Groups, including the Fighter Groups, to contact me for the expressed purpose of heading up a mini-reunion for your particular Group. To do this is exhilarating, exciting and the end result is very gratifying. So I beg of you, pitch in and let us hear from you. Evelyn Cohen and I - with help from Dean's check book - will give you every assistance you need.

Once again, thank you all for this additional honor of being your President for another year. It is something I will cherish all my life.

Sincerely,  
Bill Robertie

Sample the following for suspense which, at the same time, is a fitting tribute to the ruggedness of the B-24: Captain Keith Cookus

" . . . . Crossing the coast on the way out they were tracked by mobile flak and the first feeling burst was so close Cookus could hear it. He began evasive action but thirty seconds later his plane was hit and thrown out of control. As the Liberator tumbled around the sky seven (7) shells found her. Cookus wrestled with the controls and dropped the bomber down to 8000 feet to get away as quickly as he could. He knew there wasn't much of his Aircraft left: one of the shells had burst inside the bomb bay, ripping out the catwalk which also held the bottom of the fuselage together. It had killed the command pilot, who had been standing between the pilot and co-pilot, and blown the radio operator from the aircraft. The navigator was wounded and the top turret gunner was bleeding. There was a hole in the middle of the plane just as if a shark had taken a bite out of a fish.

Cookus and his co-pilot, Tiny Holladay, were untouched. The intercom was out and the second direct hit had shot the number 1 engine to pieces, leaving it hanging by shreds. Cookus managed to get the prop feathered before he lost all of the oil pressure. The third hit had blown out half of the number 2 engine, leaving him nothing to feather. Number 3 was burning, set afire by the flash of a near miss, and it trailed a long streamer of black smoke, streaked with red. Cookus had to leave it burning because he would have no chance of getting back to the English Coast without it. So he looked the other way, but he couldn't forget it because the fire began filling the aircraft with gas and oil smoke.

There had been a direct hit in the base of the nose turret, splinters sailing up all around the gunner, but although it blew the top right of his turret he was not hurt. He managed to extricate himself from the mess and crawled back to the cockpit to tell Cookus about another shell which had gone clean through the right wing. That shell, the seventh, had taken the right main landing gear with it. Holladay leaned across and shouted "No use trying to get it down, Buck, we ain't got it with us now"; Cookus grunted, because all the hydraulics were out anyway . . . ."

This incident (you'll have to buy the book to find out how it ends) is but one of many involving all the Groups that flew the B-24 Worldwide. I can say that the 2nd Air Division Groups are well represented although the information on some is sparse due to the fact

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## A SURVEY OF U.S.A.A.F. ARTWORK IN EAST ANGLIA

by Steve Gotts

As readers of the June 1973 edition of this newsletter would have noted in the article "The airfields - Thirty years after", The Cambridge Aircraft Preservation Society began a survey in 1972 to locate and photograph, and where possible recover examples of USAAF artwork in buildings once occupied by American airmen. The initial idea of the survey occurred to us back in October 1971, when we received a request from Roger Freeman (who needs little introduction) to photograph some existing murals at Horham airfield, one time home of the 95th Bomb. Group, 3rd Air Division. We were absolutely staggered by what we saw at Horham, and this undoubtedly provided us with the incentive to search other airfields in the hope of finding more artwork. Since that time, we have located period artwork and graffiti at ten other airfields in East Anglia, ranging from pencil written mission lists to four foot diameter unit insignia. Sadly, some of the stations we have visited have almost disappeared completely, leaving few buildings for us to inspect, and, although we are perhaps twenty years too late in these particular cases, our society feels it very worth while searching for the artwork which has survived, so that perhaps it can be preserved as a fascinating part of wartime history.

One of the ex-USAFAF stations which was inspected in 1972, Bottisham airfield, situated about four miles east of Cambridge, seemed at first to offer little in the way of buildings. However, we soon learned that the living site was located in Bottisham village, about one mile from the airfield, and there were rumours that something in the way of artwork still existed. On the 16th April, we made contact with the current owner of the buildings, and were allowed to look around them. We found paintings in four of the buildings, most of them having been white-washed over during the period when the buildings were occupied by displaced persons after the war. The first building which received our attention was a "Nisson" type construction in great danger of collapsing on us! At the end of this building behind a door marked "General Office" we discovered four circular unit insignia painted on the brick end wall, almost invisible under a thin layer of white-wash. We got to work on these and soon identified the insignia as those of the component squadrons of the 361st Fighter Group, the 374th, 375th & 376th Fighter Squadrons. The fourth insignia provided something of a mystery for us, as we failed to identify it. It would seem that it was probably the Group insignia, but, as the design was unofficial, it has

not been recorded anywhere in official records. (If any 2nd A.D. Association member can confirm our suspicions we would be most grateful.) Framed by the four insignia was the unmistakable shape of a diving Thunderbolt, which at least gave us some idea of when these paintings were made. This building had little else to offer except for paintings of the female form. Altogether, three were found: two in the General Office and one (with swimsuit) in an air-raid room. All were painted on plaster-board, and we managed to salvage the face of one, and 50% of another - the top half!!

Top portion of female painting salvaged from "General Office". Bottisham, Cambs. 23rd April 1972.

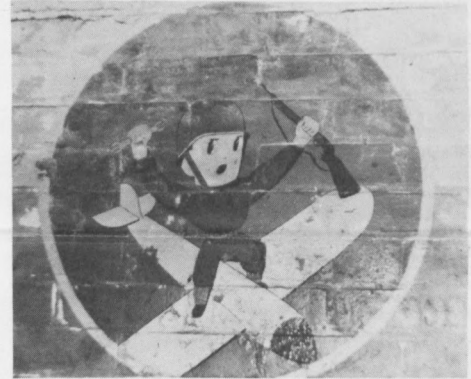


The smallest building on the living site provided one of the best examples of art discovered at Bottisham - a four foot 8th Air Force insignia, but the very best was yet to come. In what must have been a mess hall was the largest concentration of artwork we had ever seen in one building. To begin with, the group(?) and squadron insignia were repeated on an end wall, with the exception of that of the 375th FS which had been destroyed by the partial demolition of the wall. Once again, the P-47 was shown framed by the insignia, but this time on the tail of a German fighter! Further down this building, near the entrance door, we uncovered a superb painting of the Statue of Liberty, and opposite it another 8th Air Force insignia - this time of the earlier design with straight wings.



"Statue of Liberty" Mural in Mess Hall/Airmen's Club(?) Bottisham, Cambs. 6th May 1972.

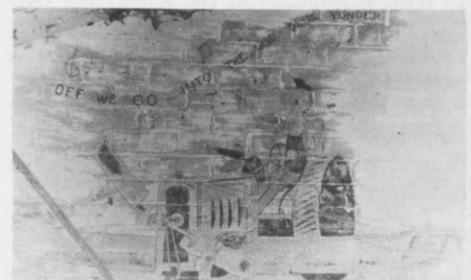
The next part of the building revealed that not all of the artwork had been painted over. All along one outer wall were over half a dozen circular unit insignia, obviously those of the various support units assigned to the 361st Fighter Group. Sadly, all of those on this wall had suffered irreparable damage due to damp, and the paint had flaked away. However, one which had been painted on an inner wall still survived in almost perfect condition.



Sole surviving support unit insignia (unknown) in Mess Hall/Airmen's Club(?) Bottisham, Cambs. 23rd April 1972.

Once again we were not able to identify the insignia, so if any Association member can assist us on this one, we would be very pleased. A typical example of the artwork which had been painted over was later discovered, quite by chance a few feet from the previously mentioned insignia. High up on the internal wall we could just discern a vague outline of something, and just below it, a hand painted letter was visible on a concrete beam. Mounting a ladder, one of our members proceeded to scrub away the flaking white-wash, revealing a painting of a B-17 being closely escorted by a yellow-nosed Mustang of the 361st Fighter Group! After more brush-work, the solitary letter was found to be part of a rather poetic phrase: "Here's a toast to those who love the vastness of the sky". After this discovery, we closely inspected every wall in the building just in case there were more works of art. Minutes later we uncovered what must still rate as the most unusual painting ever found - we can only describe it as a "flying tractor", complete with

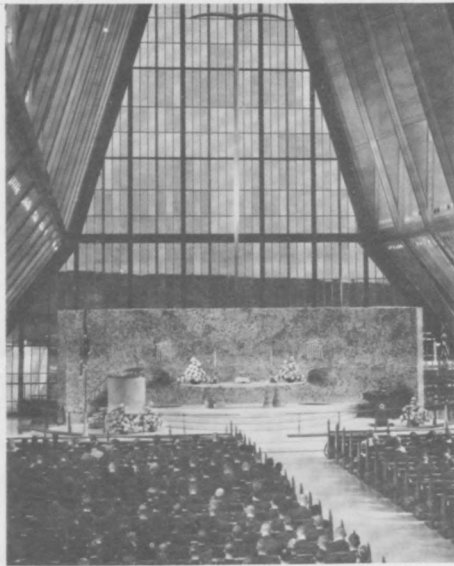
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The "Flying Tractor" painting in Mess Hall/Airmen's Club(?) Bottisham, Cambs. 6th May 1972.

## 624 TURN OUT FOR 26th REUNION (Continued from page 1)

emotions. In retrospect, however, I don't think there was anybody who would have had it any other way. It was an experience that everybody who attended will remember for the rest of their lives.



Air Force Academy Chapel

The hotel accommodations were excellent. The hotel staff friendly, cooperative and eager to please. In short it was the same as being in your own home

and entertaining delightful guests. Everyone felt at ease and, as I've said so often in the past, there were no strangers.

The smoothness with which the entire affair went off is a tribute to Co-Chairmen Bill Brooks, our new Vice President, and Hal McCormick. How they pulled it off with the minimum amount of confusion we had will forever remain a mystery.

First of all there was the chuckwagon dinner at the Flying 'W' Ranch where 1400 people were served in 23 minutes! (local restaurants please take note.) Then there was the 'street' breakfast where over 6000 people in Colorado Springs were served bacon, eggs, pancakes and coffee, all you could eat, for the princely sum of \$1.00. (Local economists please take note.) All of these goodies were consumed while sitting on bales of hay, but don't knock it until you try it.

We know this was the largest reunion we have ever had and I dare say it was the best. Everybody was friendly, everybody was happy and everybody went away with the knowledge that a Second Air Division reunion was indeed where it was all at.

It is going to be very difficult to top this one, but I venture to suggest that 624 members are certainly going to try.

'TALLY-HO!' Shouted the Huntsmen;  
'THERE GOES THE -----!' Cried GIs



The sturdy American jeep, which went everywhere and did just about everything, played a new and unusual role somewhere in England during the early days of the war when it joined red-coated British gentry in a traditional stag hunt.

With a sergeant at the wheel and two GIs standing in the rear, rifles to their shoulders, the jeep bounded out of a wood hot in pursuit of a frightened stag. Following closely was a pack of baying hounds. Very much out of the money in fourth place came red-coated English huntsmen.

The huntsmen were shouting "Yoicks!" and "Tally-ho!"

The Yanks were shouting, "There goes the ----!"

This cavalry charge from another age dashed between a squad of Yankee

soldiers at rifle practice and their targets. The unbelieving officer in charge gave the order to cease firing.

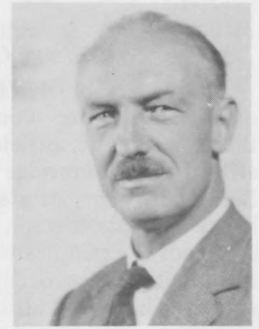
The soldiers stood and looked in amazement as the harassed stag fled in panic across a stream, through a meadow and up a hill, with the jeepborne amateur Robin Hoods' hot on its tail. The jeep jumped the stream with equal ease, came off embankments, and blazed a new trail across the meadow in its hazardous chase.

It can now be reported that the hungry Yanks didn't get the stag. But they did get a strong reprimand from the officers who halted their hunt and the admonition that "one doesn't hunt in England unless one is invited."

The red-coats advised the Americans that stag hunting in jeeps is definitely frowned upon. 'Gad, sir!'

(ed. note. Anyone care to confess?)

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Richard Q. Gurney  
Chairman

Richard Quintin Gurney D.L., T.D., of Bawdeswell Hall, Norfolk comes from an old and established Norfolk family. His father, Quintin Gurney, was an original Governor of the Memorial Trust.

Dick Gurney is a Banker, Landowner, Farmer, President of the Norwich Y.M.C.A., and a man who is full of good works. One of his recreations is hunting the fox. He is also a fisherman and a follower of other county pursuits.

He has been High Sheriff of Norfolk, Lord Mayor of Norwich (1961) and President of the Norwich Chamber of Commerce. He is a Rotarian and involved in many organizations.

One of his ancestors was Elizabeth Fry the great prison reformer. He himself has been a prison visitor. Currently he is Provincial Grand Master for Freemasonry in Norfolk.

He is a local director of Barclays Bank and he is also on the Head Office Board of the Bank. He is a Director of the Norwich Union Insurance Group. Married, with four children he was born in 1914. He served in the Army and was taken prisoner by the Italians 1939-1945.

The Gurney family, originally Quakers, have been an integral part of life in Norfolk for over two centuries. Related families include the Barclays, Birkbecks, Buxtons and Hoares all associated with or part of the banking houses of East Anglia, as well as being involved in other business enterprises. He is not without his American connections. His great, great grandfather, Joseph John Gurney, founded the Quaker College - Earlham - at Richmond, Virginia.

To sum it up there have been few deserving causes in post war Norfolk that have not had Dick Gurney as sponsor, treasurer or supporter. A man of quality and of character. A strong churchman he is also a lay reader.

### NOTICE

The Newsletter is on the prowl for copies of the Stars and Stripes, Life magazines and any printed material pertaining to the war years 1942-1945. We feel that these old publications would contain much of interest to our members. Any help would be greatly appreciated. Send anything available to William G. Robertie, P.O. Drawer B, Ipswich, Mass. 01938.

# 1974 — WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

## THE CECIL G. GOWING MEMORIAL FUND

by Thomas Goodyear

Timme Plaza



The 1974 reunion of the Second Air Division Association will be held in Wilmington, North Carolina, July 24 through the 28th.

Aaron Schultz (389th), the reunion Chairman, has advised the Newsletter that plans are well underway. He has already reserved all but 20 rooms at the Timme Plaza — Deep water port of call... complete with Battleship! — and is now in the process of finalizing arrangements for cook-outs, side trips and other goodies. Hotel rates are \$18.00 single and \$22.00 double.

The Timme Plaza, by the way, has a dock right at its front door. If you own a boat and live on the East Coast you can sail the inland waterway right up to the front desk. The Timme Plaza has earned a reputation for being the preferred business meeting and convention hotel in North Carolina.

Also available nearby is a family campground for those members who would be thinking of bringing their own trailer or camper to the reunion. The airport facilities has Piedmont Airlines connecting Wilmington with over 50 cities. This should bring the traffic in smoothly to those who are traveling by air.

Complete details will be given in the January Newsletter when all the loose ends have been tied up. But do plan on attending. Our reunions are getting larger and more friendly with each passing year. Don't miss out on what will undoubtedly be the most enjoyable vacation you have ever had.

It will be greatly appreciated if any members living in North Carolina get in touch with Aaron and give him some help. Aaron C. Schultz, P.O. Box 667, High Point, North Carolina 27261. GET INVOLVED!

### REUNION SCHEDULE

1974 — Wilmington, North Carolina

1975 — Norwich, England — Alternative, Dallas - Fort Worth.

1976 — Valley Forge, Pennsylvania — Alternative, Boston, Mass.

### LOG OF THE LIBERATORS

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that requests for information from members of these Groups went unanswered or were neglected. But I can truthfully say that there is something for everybody and it is the first book to give the venerable old 'Liberator' its just dues.

Buy it, you'll love it.



*Ed. Note: Send check or money order in the amount of \$8.50 to William G. Robertie, P.O. Drawer B, Ipswich, Mass. 01938. Steve is sending a signed bookplate to every member of the Association who purchases a copy. Allow approximately three weeks for delivery.*

### NOTICE

We still need members to volunteer to head up a mini-reunion for their particular Group — be it Bomb or Fighter Group. If your Group did not enjoy the intimate get-together a mini-reunion banquet offers then why not pitch in with the rest of us. We are ready, willing and able to help each and every one of you. So lets hear from you.

I have been working on the idea of establishing a fund in memory of the late Cecil Gowing, who died on May 7th at the age of 75. Cecil was such a good friend to so many of us stationed near his Rackheath home during the war years, and to so many Americans who visited the area during the post-war years, and he was so very interested in the Trust, of which he was a member of the Board of Governors, that it seems fitting for those of us who loved him to make a lasting contribution to the Memorial Room to perpetuate his memory.

Accordingly, I am establishing a "Cecil G. Gowing Memorial Fund" account in the First National Bank of Cooperstown, N.Y. Money deposited into this Fund will be used to purchase books to be given to the Memorial Room. My idea is that we will seek suitable advice in selecting books dealing with subjects that interested Cecil. He had spoken about the need for more volumes on aviation history. Colonel Capers A. Holmes, former Group Navigator at Rackheath and now retired and living in Montgomery, Ala., is already at work on a list of tentative selections. If funds permit, we may also purchase some books on ornithology, another subject of vital interest to Cecil.

My plan is to develop an attractive bookplate for this memorial collection, and to have the books re-bound in matching bindings. Lastly, we would have a separate volume, similarly bound, listing the names of contributors to the Fund.

I have written to Mrs. Gowing, and she is most enthusiastic about our plan, and so is Mr. Hepworth, the Librarian. Judge Bryan, a Member of the Board of Governors, has likewise expressed his approval. I have set myself up as the administrator of the project, and will readily receive suggestions from any source. I am going to England next month, and will develop plans further at that time.

So I am ready to receive contributions, and I will be sending a special letter to those whom I know were friends of Cecil. Already, I have one contribution of \$100. We would also consider donations in the form of books suitable for the collection, though we cannot accept every volume sent in this way without consideration. Checks, payable to the "Cecil G. Gowing Memorial Fund," can be sent to me at the following address:

Thomas Goodyear  
Springfield Center, N.Y. 13468

## MAKE SURE YOU ARE CARRYING THE MESSAGE FOR A STRONG AMERICA

Address by General Leon W. Johnson

As I settled down to prepare these words to meet my commitment to talk to you to-night, my mind wandered. It seemed to turn the clock backward. My mind focused vividly on those always trying, sometimes despairing, frequently hopeful, occasionally exhilarating days with the Second Air Division . . . the Second Air Division activated to control that ever growing mass of B-24s and their most welcome little friends the P-47s, P-38s and the P-51s. The performance of the aircraft was recalled with admiration, but the heart and the heart throb of the war years was the performance of you — the people who made up that great division.

It is difficult to make a distinction between relative contributions of members of the Division. All showed a national loyalty, courage in adversity, demonstrated a devotion to duty, a willingness to work uncounted hours, an ability to improvise if required and a dedication to the mission — a quick ending of the war. The placing of ones life on the line became commonplace. Accepted but never relished.

WWII actions in which you stood the test are nearly thirty years behind us. In the intervening years most of us have moved in different directions. Some have fought in the two wars since then conducting yourselves with distinction. Others have entered the fields of education and business. Regardless of the direction in which we have moved each has been dedicated to peace, that ever elusive national status, which all world leaders proclaim as their objectives but which none has been able to obtain or sustain for even one generation.

Why has peace been so elusive? I believe it is because when we have it we quickly forget the cost we paid for it and the reason why the price was so high.

In 1926, when I was commissioned in the Army, it appeared that a golden era was before us. Just eight years before, the war to make the world "Safe for Democracy" had been successfully brought to an end. We believed ours was the generation to enjoy the fruits of victory. Most even believed we would serve thirty years without hearing a shot fired in anger, while many citizens considered us an unnecessary luxury — if not worse.

Until 1932 there was no recognizable shadow foretelling the things to come. Then we began to hear rumblings from Germany, we, junior officers did not take them very seriously. Yet seven years later, Hitler faced down England's, Chamberlain and France's Daladier, at Munich. That dictator, believing in the decadence of the capitalist countries, which had not responded when he started to rearm in defiance of the Treaty of Versailles, and which had let their defenses fall well below those he had so quickly built in Germany, became convinced that the leadership of the west was weak and would never go to war against him. This perception of weakness directly led to the outbreak of WW II. The U.S. was considered so far away, so isolationist in thought and so militarily weak, that Hitler believed he could overrun Europe before we woke up. Thus, in the case of WW II peace was lost because of indecision of western leadership based primarily upon the known weakness of their military forces.

I believe it safe to say that peace in Korea and South Vietnam was lost because of clashing ideologies — in the U.S. a belief in self-determination of the ruled and in the Communist world a support of the doctrine that Communism is the wave of the future.

It is so hard for us to realize that all of the world's people do not reason alike and that all do not have the same basic concepts of "right and wrong". I am not a student of the Bible nor of the Koran, but I do know that the chief virtues of the Bible are "Truth" and "Love of thy neighbor", whereas, I am informed that the chief virtue of the "Koran" is "revenge".

The United Nations recognizes the difference, they do not have a chapel in their New York building but a "Room for Meditation", which any member of any nation can use as best fits his worship.

I repeat, it is hard for us to realize that all men do not think and believe alike. When Senator Warren Austen was our Chief Delegate to the United Nations, in the late 1940s, the Jews and the Arabs were having their differences. The Senator rose and spoke, saying — "I do not understand why the Arabs and the Jews cannot get together and settle their differences in a good Christian manner."

This world which has been known as the Free World and the Communist World, since 1945, is changing. We see new alignments developing and possibly, we see more restraint by the two super powers. This restraint lowers the level of fear of the smaller powers. This, in turn, makes our alliances, which were created for mutual protection in a period of fear, less co-hesive.

I do not imply that Communism has abandoned its avowed goal of spreading its ideology.

This restraint does not mean that there may not arise differences between the Soviets and ourselves. But, if we maintain a military strength which is recognized by the Soviets as sufficient to retaliate against them to an unacceptable level, should there be war, it should deter them from actions which could lead to a direct confrontation with us. Any lesser U.S. Military posture would encourage the Soviets and in the case of a confrontation, would leave the U.S. in the same type of position which the British and French faced at Munich, in 1939.

Therefore this is a plea, that you accept detente, which we all want, as a desirable position but one in which our strategic forces must continue to be maintained at a level adequate to convey a message of strength.

This can only be done with the support of the American people, you who fought in WW II and who saw the penalty of lack of equipment and crews, in 1942 and 1943, must be able to see the dangers of military weakness in the years ahead . . .

Make sure you are carrying the message for a strong America.

## TO KEEP GOING THE SPIRIT THAT KEPT US GOING

Address by Thomas C. Eaton  
Vice-Chairman, Memorial Trust



Mr. Chairman, Mr. President,  
General Johnson and Friends

Since I arrived here I have appeared on T.V. twice, given an interview to the press, spoken at all mini re-unions, addressed the business meeting on Friday (perhaps for too long) and spoken to so many of you that I have lost count. I really wonder what more there is I can say. I do not even have the advantage of the parson, who when asked how he managed to preach two sermons on Sunday, said that in the morning he preached with his false teeth in and in the evening with them out!

One thing I can say and I am prepared to repeat this again and again is to say a heartfelt, warm and very sincere thank-you for your hospitality — generosity — companionship and friendship this week, not only to me personally but for my son David who has enjoyed himself to the full. We both have. God willing, we shall be back and next time I intend to bring my wife.

As I have spoken to so many of you this week, and experienced the spirit and comradeship of the 2nd Air Division Association I have been reminded so much of Belloc's lines —

*"From quiet homes and first beginning  
Out to the undiscovered ends  
There's nothing worth the wear of winning  
But laughter and the love of friends"*

They echo how I feel and of my feelings for you and I cannot say more.

Those lines were written before the advent of Hitler and the tyranny which we joined together to defeat. They could only have been written in freedom.

When men and women face death, suffer tyranny or have a comparable experience, it is as if the scales drop from our eyes and we see what really matters in life.

I have the honour to belong to the Royal Norfolk Regiment, one of whose Battalions fought at the Battle of Kohima, when the Japanese advance into India was halted. On the memorial to those killed in that battle is inscribed these words:—

*"When you go home  
Tell them of us and say  
For your tomorrow  
We gave our day"*

Those of us who were P's-O-W in the Far East took as our motto in our post war Association "To keep going the spirit that kept us going".

Whilst the 2nd Air Division has inscribed in its memorial those lovely words — "In memory of those men, who flying from bases in these parts, gave their lives defending freedom". Such moving words in each case were carved out of the harsh experience of War.

Those of you, and your comrades, who had the vision to create the Memorial Trust, the American Room and the American Library saw with the clarity that comes only from the holocaust of War that although from time to time the sword is needed if freedom is to be preserved, it is indeed the pen, through the printed word, that is mightier than the sword, and it is from the stimulus of a Library of books, in our common heritage of the English language, that progress is achieved and friendships made.

And so the American Memorial Library is not just a unique memorial, a collection of books or a room in which is kept the Roll of Honour of those who died that we might live. It is above all a means by which all people of all ages in Norwich and Norfolk, and indeed elsewhere, through the stimulus of the mind.

*May re-new, and re-renew, all that is best in life. That is the spirit in which we try to administer your trust. It is in that spirit I thank you all for all you have done and are doing.*

*But above all it is in that spirit that together we face the future.*

## LETTERS

Dear Bill:

Our many thanks to you for allowing the Staff of the Antlers Plaza Hotel to serve the recent conference needs of the Second Air Division Association.

We have every hope that your conference was an outstanding success and that you enjoyed your stay with us. We would like nothing more than the opportunity to once again work with you and will enjoy hearing from you on any future needs that may arise.

Again, many thanks for allowing us the pleasure of doing business with your fine group.

Best personal regards.

Sincerely,  
Bob Hutchinson  
Director of Sales  
Antlers Plaza Hotel

Dear Bill:

I have just returned from a seven week tour of Europe where I visited Mr. F. A. Freeman who suggested I write to you for full particulars on joining the 2nd Air Division Association. I was a navigator assigned to the 458th Bomb Group at Horsham in 1944-45. I was shot down over Germany in Feb. 1945 and spent 4 months in a prison camp. My trip to Europe was to photograph the places in Germany that I remember from 1945 and to try and locate the crash site of the plane that we bailed out of. I was very successful thanks to Mr. Freeman and several German amateur historians in all cases.

I am still looking for a photo of our plane, the Iron Duke, B24J call letter I Item No. 491 assigned to the 754th Squadron of the 458th at Horsham. Roger thought it would be a good idea to put a request for pictures in your periodical and perhaps a crew chief or someone might come up with something.

However I would like to join and would also like full info on the reunion in Colorado Springs which I would like to attend. Please let me hear from you as soon as possible.

Sincerely,  
Dick Eselgroth  
11963 McDonald St.  
Culver City, Cal. 90230

*(Ed. note: Can anyone help Dick find a photo of his "Iron Duke"? And welcome aboard Dick.)*

Dear Bill:

David and I arrived home on Thursday evening after a delightful and most interesting ten days with the Morans. This was a very pleasant addition to our six days at Colorado Springs and the generous hospitality and warm welcome which you all gave us there.

We did enjoy ourselves and I cannot express adequately in words our appreciation of all you did for us, whilst I thought the convention itself was a great success. Please pass on to all concerned our very special thanks.

I am so glad I made the journey to Colorado Springs and your 26th Convention. It was so well worthwhile and most enjoyable.

I have already sent my report to the English Governors and I shall be writing Jordan Uttal with his copy tomorrow.

We look forward to welcoming you both to Norwich this Autumn when I hope we may be able, in some measure, to reciprocate your kindness to us.

Until then our very best wishes to all and our warm and sincere thanks for all that was done for us.

Yours ever,  
Tom Eaton

*(Ed. note: The pleasure was ours Tom, and our own sincere thanks to Joanne and Dallas Moran for their generous offer of help.)*

Dear Bill:

On behalf of the Committee and staff of the Norwich Public Libraries I send you best wishes for the success of your Convention. It scarcely seems a year since we were altogether in Norwich, happy to note the enthusiasm of your comrades in viewing again the bases from which they flew a generation ago.

The American Memorial Room is a much prized department of the Norwich Public Libraries, and one that I am proud to have associated with the Library service. As you know, one of my predecessors, Mr. Tom Eaton, is coming to Colorado with his son, and I know that he and you together will once more draw together the links which bind us.

I conclude with an expression of my sincere gratitude for the services your Association has rendered to the Memorial Room in the past.

Yours sincerely,  
G. E. Amiss, Chairman  
Norwich Public Libraries  
Committee

Lt. Col. John Woolnough:

After all these years I have just found out about your association from my son who is in the Colorado Civil Air Patrol. It seems one of his officers had just returned from the Colorado Springs meeting.

My crew and I were at Attlebridge from Sept. 44 thru Feb. 45. After our 35th mission my crew went home and I was assigned to the 8th night weather recon group.

I still remember our 100th mission party. I can't remember my ships name but our call letter was "Eglam E Easy".

Bits of memories are trying to come back. Membership and your newsletter should help. Enclosed is my check for \$3.00.

Robert F. Jonas  
8711 Galen Ct.  
Thornton, Colo. 90229

Dear Bill:

A brief letter to let you know how much my wife and I enjoyed the reunion. The high point of course was the Memorial Service at the Air Force Academy.

It was well worth all of the many hours I spent looking for ex2nd Air Division members. Al Kopp did a wonderful job and I am sure glad he is back in the saddle for another year. We are working on the plans for next year.

In case you don't know, Pashal Quackenbush had the original copy of the 389th insignia in his possession and let me borrow it so we could have copies made and possibly patches for the boys if enough of them requested them. See enclosed.

Bill, would it be possible to get a copy of the film you showed at the reunion. I plan to get some of the local boys together who could not make it to the reunion. Let me know the cost and I'll forward a check to you.

Am trying to obtain information regarding the group that flew out of Leuchars Scotland. Paul Trissel and Abe Hallor flew with the same outfit and neither of them could give me any information concerning the numerical designation. When I get the info I'll have another short sorry for you. It might take some time though.

Keep up the good work Bill . . .

As Ever  
Earl Zimmerman

*(Ed. note: We also are happy that Al has agreed to ram-rod another mini reunion Earl, but don't forget your own efforts. I think Al will agree with me when I say 'you did a wonderful job in assisting him'. Having the Documentary copied is 'in the mill'.*

Dear Bill,

Well, we're back home but things have yet to settle down. We had a good flight from Denver to Mpls and then drove back to my mothers place in Brainerd, about 120 miles from Mpls. Wouldn't you know it took longer to go that distance than from Denver to Mpls.

We really enjoyed ourselves at the reunion and want to express our thanks to you for making it all happen for us.

After everything was over and looking back, I think the most impressive part of the whole thing was the memorial service at the academy. I must admit I'm not to good at those things and was a little embarrassed to have tears come to my eyes a couple of times. Then I looked around and saw others, men and women, in the same boat so then I didn't feel to bad.

Hope to see you in North Carolina. Don't you think St. Louis would be better?? Centrally located and everything - Give our best wishes to Hazel and write when you find time. I know you probably have an avalanche of mail to answer.

Sincerely,  
Don & Mimi Olds

Dear Mrs. Cohen,

Please accept my \$3.00 as admission into what appears to be a fine organization.

Allow me a few minutes of your time, for I would like to ask a favor. My father was a B-24 Engineer/Gunner during the war, assigned to the 564th Bomb Squadron, 389th Bomb Group, and I am sure he would be interested to hear of your organization. Further, I read on page ten of your June issue News Letter, a letter by Al Kopp making mention of a 389th reunion, which would also be of interest to him. If it would not be to much trouble could you send my father a membership application to your organization, and information or an address to which he can write to learn more about the 389th reunion. His address is: Mr. Frank Vadas, 1026 So. 9th Street, Allentown, Pennsylvania, 18103.

Another interesting note is that on 12 December 1944, Flight Engineer T/Sgt. Frank Vadas was stationed at Charleston A.A.F. going through B-24 flight training prior to being sent oversea's, when he was notified of the birth of his son. Twenty-nine years later I am also in the Air Force, stationed at Charleston A.F.B., and am a Flight Engineer on a M.A.C. C-141 Starlifter.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
S/Sgt. John F. Vadas U.S.A.F.  
5257 Dorchester Rd. No. 35  
Charleston Heights, S.C. 29405

Dear Bill:

I am currently writing a book about Norfolk airfields (mostly 2nd Air Division) and building a history of the men and machines around them. The airfields I am mostly interested in are: Horsham St. Faith; Hardwick; Rackheath; Hethel; Shipdham; Attlebridge.

I would be very grateful, if in your capacity as 2nd Air Division News Letter editor, could you send me any information and material on any of the airfields and the 2nd AD as a whole? If you could forward any addresses and names of ex-personnel on these bases who now organize various associations I would be indebted to you.

I believe you are an ex-member of the Shipdham "Flying Eight Balls" and would welcome any contribution from yourself.

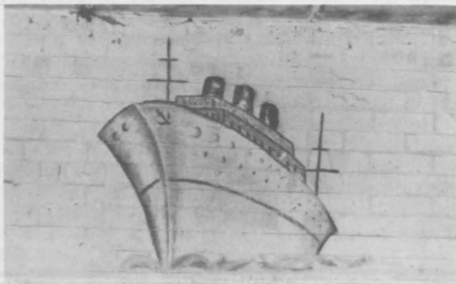
I would be more than happy to exchange photographs etc.

I therefore look forward to hearing from you and add a wish for your continued interest.

Yours sincerely,  
Martin W. Bowman  
95 Westwood Drive  
Hellesdon, Norwich  
NOR 27L, England

**U.S.A.A.F. ARTWORK IN EAST ANGLIA** (Continued from page 3)

wings, a propeller and a shot-gun mounted on the bonnet! Extensive brush-work later revealed a small infant attempting to start the engine by turning the propeller, and the driver was found to be singing that well-known ditty: "Off we go - into the wild blue yonder"! Not only were the words painted on the wall - the sheet music was also provided!



Drawing of ship done with colored chalks/crayons. Bottisham, Cambs. 23rd April 1972.

The fourth building which was found to contain artwork, supplied us with yet another mystery. Several items were found, and three of them were it seems drawn with coloured chalks or crayons. One drawing was of a ship - possibly the 'Queen Mary'(?), the second was of

a railway train and the third a caricature of a cook. The odd thing about the cook was that he was labelled 'R A F' and 'V R' which would seem to indicate Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve.



Caricature of cook drawn with colored chalks/crayons. Bottisham, Cambs. 23rd April 1972.

We understand that Bottisham was occupied by a R.A.F. Mustang Squadron before the U.S.A.A.F. arrived, and so these could have been drawn at that time. Or, were there perhaps R.A.F. personnel stationed in the living quarters at the same time as the 361st Fighter Group Personnel? If any Association member can throw any light on this problem, we would be pleased to hear from him! We would also very much like to know who the artist(s) were at Bottisham, and whether they are still

with us today. Perhaps they (or he) would be interested to know that most of the artwork is still in existence, providing a sharp contrast with the odd things which now occupy the buildings they are in!

**NOTICE**



The Newsletter has just been advised by the Publisher that Roger Freeman's "The Mighty Eighth" is once again in print. I know that many of you already have a copy, but for those of you who missed out on the first printing your in luck.

While this book is now selling in the bookstores for \$15.95 you can purchase a copy through the Association for \$11.50. Send check or money order to William G. Robertie, P.O. Drawer B, Ipswich, Mass. 01938.

**PORTRAIT GALLERY**

**1973 Reunion, Air Force Academy, Colorado**



Lloyd A. Haug 467th and Past President Ken Darney 467th



Bill Robertie, Tom Eaton and David Eaton.



Betty and Dr. John Jacobowitz. 466th



Col. Griffin, Gen. Johnson and Mike Fusano. 44th



Pretty wife and Lenard - Ludwig that is. 44th Hdq.



Joyce and Jordan Uttal, Hdq.



Former WAC Jackie Hanify - a real doll



Bobbie and Col. Griffin - Jo and Joe Warth 44th - and they are just as nice as they look.



A portion of the 44th BG gather for a group portrait.



Past President Joe Whittaker and Wife. Hdq.



Evelyn Cohen, Membership Secretary, and Bill Robertie