

NEWS LETTER

Vol. 13, No. 3

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

September 1975

REUNION 1975 — NORWICH, ENGLAND

On the afternoon and evening of May 29 about 380 odd members of the 2nd ADA, together with their wives and families, began to gather at the Chicago and Philadelphia airports for the beginning of their long awaited journey into the past.

For the men it was a question — several questions. How much had the old base changed? Would my favorite watering stops still be there? Would I meet anybody I knew during those trying years?

For the wives and family members it was anticipation. Now, at last, they were going to see where their husbands and fathers spent the war years. They were also going to find out what the magic attraction was about Norwich and East Anglia that kept their husbands remembering for over 30 years. Most important of all it was going to be a new experience, one that many of them thought they would never have the opportunity to enjoy.

For me it was a bit different. As I looked around the terminal at Philadelphia and thought about the same thing taking place in Chicago my mind went back two years when your membership Vice President, Evelyn Cohen, (with a small assist from yours truly) began planning for the great moment that had now arrived. How we, on this date, were finally gathered in two locations preparing to take off will forever remain a mystery to me.

It will serve no useful purpose to go over the 'ups' and 'downs' of that 24 month period other than to say that when the trend was 'up' Evelyn was leading the pack, and when the trend was 'down' Evelyn refused, adamantly, to give up. It was by reason of her tenacious attitude throughout these trying months that we were now gathered on the threshold of what

turned out to be a wonderful experience.

There was only one 'sour' note connected with the entire trip. Although our arrival in England was well publicized, and invitations had been sent, nobody — but nobody — from the American Embassy saw fit to attend. This was a 'slight' to the English and a profound slap in the face to the Association considering the Good Will we have engendered over 30 years by reason of our Memorial. Mr. Elliott Richardson (rumor has it that he's our ambassador to Great Britain) was back in Massachusetts playing golf, and the Air Attache (automatically a member of our Board of Governors for the Trust) had a more 'pressing' engagement. Probably something as 'pressing' as a card game or fishing trip. We did extend our apologies to our British friends and they assured us that they held the 2nd ADA in no way responsible for this obvious lack of manners. I do hope *somebody* was minding the store in London.

Rather than bore you with a diary like description of what transpired this issue of the Newsletter will contain articles which appeared in the Norwich Newspapers, photographs which were taken by our members and comments from those



Arrival at Mildenhall. (bottom to top) Jordan & Joyce Uttal, Evelyn Cohen, Bobby & Col. Griffin, Hazel Robertie.

who were there.

A special note of thanks goes to Mr. Alfred Jenner, Managing Editor of the Eastern County Newspapers, also a member of our Board of Governors, for his generosity in providing photos taken by his staff and for giving us permission to reprint these articles.

For those who couldn't make the trip we hope this makes you feel as if you were there. For those who did make the trip we hope this brings back memories of a wonderful moment in your lives, one we hope you will always remember.

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Eighth Air Force**

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**PRESIDENT'S
CORNER**



From Da Prez:

Hi y'all. We are back in Florida on "Operation Rocking Chair" after a grand and glorious reunion at Norwich. Our English friends really rolled out the red carpet for us, and we all had a wonderful time.

Things like this don't just happen. They are the result of detailed advance planning, coordination, cooperation, and a lot of hard work. For this, our sincere appreciation goes to Evelyn Cohen, Bill Robertie, Joe Warth, Charles Gallagher, Hank Tevelin, John Archer, Tom Eaton (former Lord Mayor of Norwich and now Chairman of the Board of Governors for our Memorial Library), and those who assisted them.

CHORLEY

or

WHO BROUGHT THAT WOMAN IN HERE?

by Pete Henry (44th B.G.)

As we travelled south from Edinburgh, Scotland on English super highway M6, we came to a sign announcing Charnock Richard, a small town about 12 miles below Preston. At this spot on the motorway, there is a Post House (Travelodge) where you can spend the night for a few pounds less than comparable motels in Liverpool.

Charnock Richard's importance to some 2 AD members is that it is located just eight miles west of Chorley, the home of the Eighth Air Force's 127th Replacement Battalion in WWII. It was at this location that many of our crews enjoyed (?) rest and recuperation while awaiting transportation back to the States after completing their tour. (This observer and his crew spent 16 days here in April 1945.)

With the help of a few English 'Mums' in a local supermarket, we found the old battalion area which is still in existence and being used by the Lancashire County Fire Brigade as a Training Center. Mr. H. Finney, Deputy Commandant, was kind enough to interrupt his dinner to show us around.

Many of the old barracks are still standing, and in use, and new buildings have taken the place of others. Some of the older barracks have been put to the torch as part of the young cadet training program. Mr. Finney



took us through the old Administration building that housed Headquarters, the Post Theater (still in use as a theater), and the old Mess Hall, now a gymnasium.



On the west side of the Administration building, still stands a ship's figurehead (Fanny?) which suddenly appeared there one morning in the waning days of the war. It's manner of appearance has been subjected to many variations, one of which is that it arrived by taxi from Liverpool one morning along with several well-lubricated airmen. The Lancashire County Fire Brigade have kept the old girl well painted and she looks as good as the day she arrived.

These facilities were originally used by the munitions workers employed at the Royal Ordnance Factory, Euxton and later turned over to the American Armed Forces for use as a rest center. It was during this period that the name "Washington Hall" originated, and the title extended to the lane which gives access to the North Entrance. It was originally named "German Lane", and was, at the time, the main entrance.

Following cessation of hostilities, the American Forces were progressively demobilized, and the premises were vacant until 1950 when it was brought into use as a Teacher Training College and, later, the Fire Brigade Training Center.

The splendid efforts and teamwork of these people assured us of economical transportation, good hotel rates, excellent TV and press coverage, use of Norwich municipal facilities, cooperation of Norfolk County Council, the assistance of Sir Edmund Bacon, Norfolk Representative of the Queen, a fly past of the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight (Spitfire, Hurricane, Lancaster) from R.A.F. Coltishall during the reception at Blickling Hall, visits to old bases, and viewing a B-24, and other historical aircraft, at R.A.F. Duxford.

The brilliant performance of M.C. duties by Jordan Uttal, (Founder, Past President, and American Member on the

Memorial Trust), at our final banquet was in keeping with the prestige of our honored English guests and the high standards of our Association.

In addition to his outstanding leadership during the past year, culminating in one of our most successful reunions, our outgoing President, Bill Brooks, thru his personal efforts, achieved a very large financial contribution to the Memorial Trust Fund, and the addition of hundreds of books.

It will be difficult to fill the shoes of your Past Presidents, but you may be assured that I will do my best to justify the confidence you have placed in me.

Goodman G. Griffin

VETERANS HIT AT 'RED TAPE'

(Eastern County Newspapers, Norwich, England)

American Air Force world war two veterans, who flew into East Anglia yesterday arrived in Norwich firing on all guns at the red-tape which, they say, forced them to cut the size of their party.

A group of 350 United States 2nd Air Division Association members and their families flew into U.S.A.F. Mildenhall before travelling to Norwich for their annual convention — their third in the city.

Officers of the association were upset because "airline politics" had prevented the association from filling all the seats on two Boeing 707 jets, which had been chartered from T.W.A.

Miss Evelyn Cohen, membership vice-president, who helped to arrange the association's 14-day package trip to Britain, trained her guns on the British Department of Trade and Industry.

She complained that the department had blocked their last-minute plans to fill 25 vacant seats on the two jets.

EMBASSY

It was, she claimed, the D.T.I.'s "tit for tat" after a British charter flight had been the victim of a similar American ruling.

The association tried to get the British Embassy in Washington to lift the ban on last-minute additions to the passenger list, but their request was turned down, said Miss Cohen.

"They said the passenger list had to be completed six weeks before departure. It is so unreasonable," she added. "It is costing the association 12,000 dollars."

Mr. Tom Eaton, chairman of the governors of the 2nd Air Division's Memorial Trust, who greeted the party at Mildenhall, backed the Americans' complaints.

FURIOUS

"Here is an ex-Service men's organisation to whom we owe our freedom. They are making a goodwill visit, but bureaucracy has intervened to take some of the gilt off the gingerbread."

"In this day and age, when a trip is



The Sheriff of Norwich, Mr. Joe Stirling (centre) and Mr. Tom Eaton (right) with some of the American veterans and their wives at the "get-together" at the Hotel Norwich last night.

generated out of goodwill, it makes one furious to think that some of the people have been prevented from coming through airline politics."

Among those unable to make the flight was Gen. William Kepner, commander of the 2nd Air Division in 1945. An honorary freeman of Norwich, he had to cancel his visit at the last moment for business reasons.

The visit will revive many war-time memories for the ex-Service men, who have flown from Chicago and Philadelphia for the convention.

"It will be a tremendous experience for them to see Norfolk and Norwich again, and to meet local people after 30 years," said Mr. Eaton.

As a permanent reminder of their wartime links with East Anglia, the 2nd Air Division established the American Room in Norwich Central Library as a memorial to American airmen killed in flying missions from East Anglian bases.

In all about 400 members of the association, many accompanied by wives and children, have gathered in the city. Apart from the American contingent,

other members, now living in England and on the Continent, have also come for the convention and reunion.

ANNIVERSARY

Their five-day programme of events began last night with a get-together for members and friends at the Hotel Norwich.

Today members, who are staying in several city hotels during their visit, will attend their annual meeting at City Hall. This coincides with the 33rd anniversary of the founding of the 2nd Air Division, and the 30th anniversary of the formation of the American Memorial Trust.

The association has held two conventions in Norwich in the past — in 1963 and 1972.

This afternoon, the governors of the American Memorial Trust will hold a meeting at Norwich Central Library. This will be followed in the evening by a civic reception at Norwich Castle, given by the Lord Mayor, Mrs. Joyce Morgan.

Tomorrow many members of the association will travel to R.A.F. Duxford to see a restored Liberator, which has been renovated by the Friends of the 8th U.S.A.A.F.

In the afternoon, members will take part in a memorial day service at the American cemetery near Cambridge.

Actor James Stewart, currently starring in a West End play, who served in the 2nd Air Division at Tibenham during the war, is likely to be among those there, but has asked to be treated "as one of the boys."

On Monday, members will embark on a nostalgic tour by coach of their old bases in Norfolk and Suffolk. In the evening, a reception is being given for the association, by Norfolk County Council at Blickling Hall.

On Tuesday, the group will be able to pay an informal visit to the gardens of the Bishop of Norwich, the Rt. Rev. Maurice Wood. A banquet held at the Norwood Rooms in Norwich in the evening concludes the organised part of the Americans' stay.



Vickie Brooks; Prez Bill; Lord Mayor, Mrs. Joyce Morgan; Dottie Brooks; Mr. Morgan.

Attlebridge Notes

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(466th BOMB GROUP)

Editor:
Lt. Col. John H. Woolnough
7752 Harbour Blvd.
Miramar, Fla. 33023



466th BOMB GROUP — REUNION HAPPY!

As usual the 466th made a good showing at the 2nd AD Assn. Reunion in Norwich, tying with the 44th BG for the first place honors. An early list showed 25 of our men registered for the affair. I know of two others who also showed up. When you add wives and other 466 attendees you can see that we had around 50 in Norwich in early June. Everyone I saw reported having a very good time (I arrived just in time for the banquet on the last day).

We generally try to have a stateside reunion after every England trip to get a critique on the trip and to give the less fortunate a chance to get together. To favor areas that never had a reunion before, and to cut down on traveling distance we tried three rallies this year. We are sorry we had to cancel the California Rally and postpone the Florida Rally (it will be held as a "mini" with the 8th AF Reunion, Miami Beach, 10-12 October 1975). Only a few were registered in advance. The Texas story was something else.

Those Texans aren't just talkers. They take action. J. M. "Pappy" Daniels (see his photo in the June 1974 News Letter — he hasn't changed much, neither has the cigar) was the man in charge. He brought together the best reunion committee I can remember. He started with three other guys to do the planning (Leslie "Tommy" Thompson, Bob Pettersen, and Rod Darelus). Then he added four gals to do the work (Sybil Pettersen, Pat Miller, Wanda Fae Thompson, and Roberta Daniels. Through their combined efforts (really the whole committee worked hard) the meeting had the look and feel of a full fledged reunion.

Fifty-two people showed up, including many who had never enjoyed a reunion before, e.g. Col. Steadman and his "Steady's Betty". We all gathered at a poolside suite at the Inn of the Six Flags where we enjoyed movies, albums, diaries, the singing bartender (Al Mauzy), and war stories. Jim Auman (not present) sent his large drawings of the various unit insignia in the group. Bill Brooks (present) brought the 2ADA copy of the "Book of Remembrance" (the original is in the Norwich Library) and the Anglia Television colour film of its 1972 program on Americans in Norwich.

All of this was topped off with Jordan Uttal's excellent report on the 2nd Air Division Memorial. Proof that the message was received was shown in the \$100 donation given by the group to the Memorial Fund.

In closing, they vowed to do it again, drafting Morgan Cox as Chairman for the 1976 meeting. It will be in San Antonio in October. They will invite all 466ers to join them.

I left the Dallas - Ft. Worth area with a feeling of well being and joy (the reunion feeling). My admiration for the good job they did will be shown when I nominate J. M. Daniels to be our next Group Vice President on the 2nd AD Assn. Executive Board. The election will take place at the 2AD Reunion (Valley Forge).



This sign was placed in the "Five Ringers" pub at Weston Longville two days before this photo was taken. It sparked the idea of a 466 Memorial.

ATTLEBRIDGE MEMORIAL

Most of our people visited the base on the 2nd of June. I didn't get around to the base until the 4th of June. My guide was Chris Gotts. We tramped over nearly every inch of the airfield, examining each site, except for 5 & 6. We broke for a bite of lunch around noon and stopped at the "Five Ringers" in Weston Longville. To our great surprise we saw a sign saying the 466th had been there (see photo). The fact that the pub owner and the dart board users had seen fit to preserve it for two days impressed us very much.

Early in July I received the following from Chris: "Seeing that chalked inscription on the dart board at the 'Five Ringers' has set me to thinking. How about a permanent memorial to the 466th BG set up on that well trimmed area of grass in front of the control tower at Attlebridge? I feel that anyone visiting the airfield should be made aware of what was happening there in 1944 and 1945. It would be in memory of those who left that field in their aircraft never to be seen again. If you and your 466ers could come up with a design and the funds, I am willing to make all of the necessary arrangements over here."

Chris is right. We do need a marker for our airfield. I think we can go one step further. We can create a Memorial Garden somewhere near the base. This would be in the "Living Memorial" spirit in that it would be of benefit to the community and not just be a piece of stone. Along with the garden we should seek to establish a point of reference for future travelers. A place where they can go to ask questions about those that served on that base so long ago. A place where we can establish a Register to record the visitors.

The Memorial Garden and point of reference should be located at some public place, perhaps a pub. I have asked Chris to see if he can find some location near the base that might satisfy this need. In the meantime 466ers should think this proposition over. We will be in a position to vote on it in July.

THE YOUNGEST SPEAKS OUT

Dick Baynes wrote this (in reference to the Davis letter in the June issue, p 11) "I became 20 in May of 1944 (arriving at Attlebridge in June of 44) and completed 35 missions before Davis arrived. (Baynes last mission coincided with mine, 1 Nov 44) I can't disclaim Davis on being the shortest."

Any takers on this latest claim?



OK if turkeys live on our runways, but pigs in our Opera House is a bit too much.

A LIMEY'S ODE TO WWII

Not to be outdone by her husband's poems (Jean Pentz, Dec. 74 News Letter, "Attlebridge Lament") Rose Brewis Pentz (formerly of London) penned her own. With slight revision it is printed here.

German planes at dusk were heard,
Dawns first light — Berkely's bird,
German guns across from Dover,
RAF planes, the White Cliffs over.

Spitfires everywhere doing their thing,
Wing and a Prayer, they would sing.
War in Europe — it's bad was all the talk,
Cockneys still doing the Lambeth Walk.

The Windmills dolls standing still,
Germans advancing over the hill.
Dunkirk's wounded coming back.
England alone the Huns lack.

Winston Churchill's bulldog face,
Radio talks — USA joins arms race.
Land Army girls in baggy britches,
American bicycles, left in ditches.

Sirens screaming all the time,
opposed to Miller's rhyme.
Queues for fish, two blocks long,
Vera Lynn's sultry song.

Searlights dancing overhead,
Grandma's downstairs under her bed.
Then one day, after all the pain,
we all looked up to the lights again.

Piccadilly, what an awful crush,
G.I.'s marrying, all in a rush.
Troops returning to the States,
G.I. wives joining their mates.

We look back at the total scene,
all caused by Adolph, mustached and mean.
We all did our part to end the fuss,
thanks to the G.I.'s who joined hands with us.

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter in the comparative calm of my office, with your book gifts still stacked on the floor but now in neatly labelled piles and not as some of you who visited me during the Convention saw them, I think of you all having returned to your homes all over the U.S., recovering from a very busy but I hope enjoyable stay in England and Europe.

We in Norwich have so much to be grateful for – your kindness, friendliness and enthusiasm, your appreciation of our City and County, your hospitality at the banquet, your cards and messages sent to Philip Hepworth – all will remain long in my mind. Between you, you brought over 219 books for the American Memorial Room and many booklets and pamphlets dealing with your own Cities and States. All will be invaluable when we have enquiries about the area in which you live from geographers, historians and prospective tourists (so perhaps you will incidentally earn some dollars for Uncle Sam!)

In addition to books, you brought over other donations including a banner of the 448th Bomb Group, the State flag of Pennsylvania and several beautiful sets of medals. After the Convention the plaque presented to the Second Air Division by the people of Duxford, Cambridgeshire, was passed to the library for safe keeping by Colonel Griffin. We also have a large-scale photograph of a B24 Liberator at Seething, Norfolk, taken during World War II and carrying the signatures of many of you who attended the Norwich Convention. Of especial value and interest is the manuscript diary kept by S/Sgt. Robert E. Ferrell of missions of the 66th and 68th Squadrons



Morris Dancers perform at Blickling Hall.

of the 44th Bomb Group flown from Shipdham. The author gave his diary to Bob Dubowsky who passed it on to the library. We shall have it photocopied so that it can be consulted, as the original is rather fragile and will be kept in the Strong Room with other unique or irreplaceable material such as long-out-of-print histories of Bomb and Fighter Groups. We were very glad to receive a bound photocopy of *The story of the 93rd Bomb Group*. We purchased this

book on microfilm from the New York Public Library several years ago, but are very pleased to have a copy in book form. (How many of you realize that New York Public Library has a fine collection of unit histories of the USAF?). It is invidious to single out individual donations but I thought that brief mention of these would interest you. All of your gifts are much appreciated and will undoubtedly be fully used by our readers.

Lastly, some personal memories of the Convention. You were all (or nearly all) tired and hungry but still enthusiastic enough to buy booklets and postcards at the buffet supper on your first evening at the Hotel Norwich; Saturday – mounds



The mob scene at the Hotel Norwich that first night.

of books and still more books but all faithfully inscribed with the names of the donors, which helped me greatly in the big sort out that came later; your business meeting which I attended and listened to with great interest; Tom Goodyear's formal presentation at the Governors' meeting of the books from the American Friends of Cecil G. Gowing, in his memory; the gay and friendly people at the Castle reception; the unforgettable sight of the Spitfire, Hurricane and Lancaster over Blickling as they dipped their wings in salute; last but by no means least, a visit to the library's "local" one lunch time with three of your members. We were joined in no time at all by former R.A.F. men who enjoyed reminiscing every bit as much as you did. In the end I had to get back to work and crept quietly away, leaving you to it! I understand that next day two of my companions met the Bishop of Norwich and received his Blessing – quite a contrast from their previous day's visit to the Coach and Horses. And lastly, your magnificent banquet, the kind things that were said, the handshakes exchanged as I said "Goodbye" – or should it be "Au revoir"? Thank you for an unforgettable Convention.

Yours sincerely,

Joan Benns
Principal Assistant Librarian,
Norwich Division
Norfolk County Library

"ACES AND WINGMEN"

by
Danny Morris



This book is a massive compilation of material dealing with the fifteen Fighter Groups of the 8th AF and an additional one from the 9th AF.

The book was originally planned for publication in February 1973, and it is an indication of the magnitude of the task which confronted the Author that two additional years elapsed before publication.

The content of the narrative portion of the book is based on facts supplied by fourteen pilots and their wingmen. The larger section is an album of over 400 photographs, many previously unpublished, which show the atmosphere of wartime England and the debris filled skies over Western Europe.

Included is a diary of notable events in the air war from February 1942 to VE day, short Group histories, a full list of their Aces, their COs, Codes and Call Signs and a listing of representative Group Aircraft. The Illustrator, Jerry Scutts, has drawn over 100 side views of Lightnings, Thunderbolts and Mustangs in full color.

This book contains much new information for every serious aeronautical historian and is enjoyable reading for those who just want to know what it was all about.

Published by Neville Spearman Ltd., Price \$14.50.

(Ed. Note: You can purchase an autographed copy by sending your check or M/O to William G. Robertie, P.O. Drawer B, Ipswich, Mass. 01938.)

NEED HELP???

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THE MIGHTY EIGHTH
467th B.G. 790th SQDN.

ROY L. RAINWATER

P. O. BOX 50 / SAPULPA, OKLA. 74066

WARS FOUGHT
REVOLUTIONS PLOTTED
ASSASSINATIONS STARTED
GOVERNMENTS RUN
UPRISINGS QUELLED

TIGERS TAMED
BARS CONVERTED
VIRGINS EMPTIED
MEXICAN GOLD
ORGIES ORGANIZED

ALSO PREACH AND LEAD SINGING FOR REVIVAL MEETINGS

REUNION



Our travel agent, Hank Tevelin and lovely Scottish wife, Edie. (Henry)



Just a 'few' who attended the reception at the Castle. (Crouch)



Lord Mayor's Reception



The one responsible for it all - our own Evelyn Cohen. (Crouch)



Our pilot for the return trip. Howard Hinchman - 93 - 389. (Henry)



Hilda Savage Weiner (Gold Star Mother) lights one of the Memorial Candles. (Crouch)



453rd members at Castle reception. (Top row l to r) Jim Macnew, Jim & Betty Kotapish and Warren Vernier. (Middle row l to r) Bob Atkins, Walt & Jean Edgeworth and Mrs. Vernier. (front row l to r) Col. Thomas, Mrs. Atkins, Bill West, Walt & Marge Eason.

Picture courtest Curt Crouch, 445th



Jordan Uttal, Joe Stirling (Sheriff of Norwich), Bill Brooks and Evelyn Cohen.

PHOTOS



Bill Graff, Delectable Doris and Jimmy Stewart in front of - what else? - Delectable Doris!

(Crouch) →



B/G Jimmy Stewart arrives. ←



Waiting for the RAF Flyover at Blickling Hall.



Dean Moyer smiles after parting with \$8,000 check for the Trust Fund.

(Crouch)



Al Jenner (Managing Editor, Eastern County News); Pres. Bill Brooks; Newsletter Editor, Bill Robertie.

The wives get the feel of it!

(Crouch)



Our favorite tour director, and friend!

(Henry)



Happy arrivals at Mildenhall.

VICE PRESIDENT
EARL L. ZIMMERMAN
(389th BG)



As your new Vice President I was advised to come up with some new ideas, so here goes.

Let us double our membership during the coming year. Impossible you say? Well read on. If every member obtained one new

member we would be 'in like Flynn'. Knowing that some of you are too busy to open your Group Roster I have an alternate plan. Sponsor another person whose address is known but who, for some reason, does not join.

Let's take an example from H. E. Paulson who paid for the enrollment of his former crew members. Check with your Group VP and send him a check for \$5.00 to enroll someone he thinks might join after receiving the Newsletter and reunion notices for one year. I have a list of over 300 persons of the 389th who are not members, including a member of my own crew. To start the ball rolling I will enroll five members from the list.

Don't take the easy way out, look for the lost lads. They are out there somewhere waiting. How did you find out about the Association? Have you ever had the pleasure of finding a new member and hear them cry on the phone after hearing a voice from their old Group after 30 years? Try it. Let's get on the stick. You are enjoying the Association so lets double the pleasure. Get a new member. If it's easier send \$5.00 to your Group VP. Let's give our new President over 4000 members for Valley Forge.

Hang in there

Earl L. Zimmerman

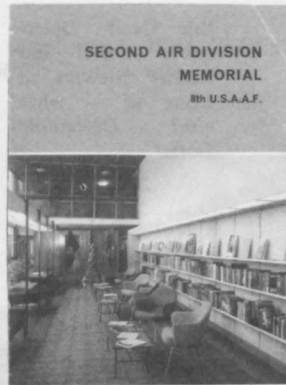
"EIGHTBALL ITEMS"

by Joe Warth (44th BG)

Norwich was the place to be from the 30th of May to the 4th of June this year. Why? Because the annual reunion took place there. Sorry that some of you were unable to be with us, but rest assured that you were represented and a few pints of brew were consumed in your name and memory by those of us who were lucky enough to make the trip.

Through hazy eyes I seem to recall seeing Col. Griff and Bobbie, the Roberties, the Henrys, the Bresslers, the Di-

MEMORIAL LIBRARY BOOKLET



When the Second Air Division Memorial Library Room was dedicated in 1963 a booklet was printed containing a brief history of the 2nd Air Division, The 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust, the Dedication Ceremonies and the Memorial itself.

Long out of print the booklet has now been re-printed with an added section "The Second Air Division Memorial Trust in 1974". This is really a 'must' if you want to know everything pertaining to your Memorial.

Copies can be purchased by sending a check or money order to William G. Robertie, P.O. Drawer B, Ipswich, Mass. 01938 in the amount of \$3.00.

We have purchased a limited supply of these so it will be first come - first served. Get your order in now.

Pieros and many, many more too numerous to mention. In fact the 44th had the largest attendance of all the Groups. Now that shows spirit. Guts too!



Pete Henry becomes reacquainted with wall painting in one of the barracks still standing at Shipdham.

Anyway, a fine time was had by all. The ladies finally got the chance to see what they had been told about all these years, some of which was true! Some had been embellished a bit but the ladies didn't seem to mind. They were too busy enjoying themselves.

The first night buffet at the Norwich Hotel was the 'ice breaker' and from then on it was fun for all.

Our 44th membership continues to grow. Over 275 are now on the roster of the 2nd ADA. Why not make it larger? Send me the name of your old buddies and I will send them an application blank so that they too can once again be part of the Group.

At this point I urge all of you to start planning for Valley Forge next year. It will be held at the second week in July and I would like to see the entire membership of the 44th present and accounted for...SEE YOU IN VALLEY FORGE.

ORDER OF THE PURPLE CART

It would be nice to be able to say that this years reunion involving some 492 members and guests went off without incident. It would be nice to say that but it wouldn't be quite truthful.

It is my sad duty to announce that Mrs. James Kotapish was wounded in action. While exiting from a cab in Edinburgh she caught her foot in a leather strap that was hanging loose. With complete disregard for her own safety - thinking only of her husband, Jim, who was looking elsewhere at the time - she bravely crashed to the ground breaking her right leg. From then on her method of transportation was via the wheel chair.



Mrs. James Kotapish

For this unselfish devotion to duty, and complete disregard for her own safety, Betty Kotapish has been awarded the "Order of the Purple Cart".

Also up for an award (pending) are Maurice Zappala and Dave Sweeney. In a magnificent showing of complete disregard for time schedules - something they regard as obnoxious trappings of officialdom - both managed to miss the Philadelphia flight out of Heathrow Airport in London. When last seen they were clutching a well filled tankard of light ale at the airport bar. It was later learned that they did manage to make the Chicago flight which left somewhat later. How they got from Chicago to Boston has not yet been determined.

A suitable award will be forthcoming in the near future for this magnificent display of independence from time and tide.

MEMORIES OF A WONDERFUL TRIP

by Sister Mary James, O.S.B.

Three hundred-fifty Air Force Members from the Second Division in the U.S., flew to the charming, plush green country of England by TWA plane and became for five fantastic days, their most-welcomed and honored guests.

By a beautiful and unexpected twist of fate, and the efforts and interest of some wonderful people, I chanced to be among those attending the U.S. Second Air Division Reunion held in Norwich, England from May 30th to June 14th. I can honestly say I didn't ever truly appreciate what our young men did for other countries during any war until this recent experience in England! The bond of friendship and affection built over the past thirty years was quite easily recognizable and evident to me, a complete stranger, the moment I stepped out of the plane at Mildenhall. I was filled with mixed emotions at the warm welcome extended and at the same time so proud of our U.S. Air Force. These feelings remained with me throughout my entire visit in England. Each days events and receptions were outstanding and heart-warming and one just outdid the other. Blickling Hall with its gorgeous gardens, delightful dancers, beautiful music and the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight will forever bring back pleasant memories. Just the thought of the work that was put forth to arrange all of these festivities



Kathy Auman, Sr. Mary James & 'Snooky' Auman.

overwhelmed me.

Being a nun, I wasn't quite sure how I was going to fit in with this group of complete strangers, but at Philadelphia prior to take-off, these feelings of apprehension were allayed. It was so inspiring the way each and every member with whom I came in contact made me feel just like one of the "group". The friends I made at this reunion will never be forgotten. The memories of it will linger on for years to come but most of all the "spirit" of the men of the Eighth Air Force will be deeply imbedded within my heart for all times. This above all impressed me a great deal and will always be cherished.

The trip was for me a dream come true, but the knowledge, insights, experi-

ences and newly formed friends accrued from it are such that can never be attained while sitting in any college or university classroom!

I would like to thank all who in any way made this trip such a delightful and pleasant one for me. Recognition must also be given to those who really made it possible for me to attend, namely: Evelyn Cohen, Joe Warth, Bill Brooks, Bill Robertie, Tom Eaton and my sister and her husband, Mr. & Mrs. James Auman. To these and to all I met along the way I can only extend one big - "God bless you all"! And my prayer will be that the Second Air Division Association will continue to grow in leaps and bounds over the years to come.

AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY CAMBRIDGE

There is no more moving experience than to attend the Memorial Day service at the American Military Cemetery at Cambridge.



On this occasion our President, Bill Brooks, laid a wreath commemorating the dead of the Second Air Division and he was joined by B/G James Stewart who also laid a wreath.

After the wreath laying ceremony most of the members present walked through the quiet confines of row upon row of crosses and the Star of David seeking the graves of friends they had left behind. If they didn't find a grave they then turned to the "Wall of the Missing" and always found the name they were seeking.



2AD members at Cambridge.

It is comforting to know that this plot of ground will always be well taken care of and for anyone visiting England for however short a stay a visit to this beautiful cemetery is an absolute must.

NEWS OF THE 448th

by Ken Englebrecht

I was very pleasantly surprised the other day when I checked up on the 448th membership in the 2nd ADA.

In 1972 the Roster showed 21 members. In the 1974 Roster I counted 148. These aren't really impressive figures when you consider the number of men who were in the 448th at one time or another. However, it does look impressive if we say that our membership has increased by 600% in just a very short time.

I am now in the process of putting all the names and addresses I have in groups according to home states. What I really need are volunteers from each of the 50 States. In this way we can track down all these men at minimum expense. With lots of help we should be able to zero in on a good many of these people and, in the process, I feel sure we will run into a lot of new names.

If anyone wants to handle his own State please let me know. When you write I will tell you how I think you should handle the job. Also, I am open to any and all suggestions. If more than one person volunteers from any particular State so much the better.

I would like to thank Walter Rude and Charles Yant for their recent contributions. This all helps to pay for the stamps, phone calls, stationery etc. However, what I would like most of all is that each of you send me 10 brand new names from our old 448th gang.

WILLIAM L. BROOKS 1975

It is my sad duty to advise our membership of the sudden passing of our immediate past President, William L. Brooks of the 466th Bomb Group. Bill fell victim to a massive heart attack during the morning of August 25, 1975.

The accomplishments Bill attained this past year as President were nothing short of tremendous. . . Our Fund Drive forged ahead, our membership grew by over 300 and he led us back on a memorable trip to Norwich where relationships with our English friends were cemented for all time.

It has always been my belief that death is but a transition from one life to another, and - ever the leader - Bill has gone on ahead to pave the way for the rest of us, leaving his friends of today to re-join those of yesterday.

Bill Brooks had the capacity to enjoy everyone he met. He will be sorely missed.

Bill Robertie

FUND DRIVE TOPS \$10,000

It is very gratifying to report that at the end of two years our Fund Drive towards \$50,000 to bolster our Memorial Trust fund has topped the \$10,000 mark.

The largest donation came from the W. Van Allan Clark family. While Mr. Clark did not serve in the 2nd Air Division he is noted for his charitable gifts to very worthy causes. When our past President, Bill Brooks, showed him our Memorial Booklet and explained what the 2nd ADA had accomplished over the past 28 years with its Memorial Mr. Clark presented his personal check in the above amount – a most generous gesture.

You have every reason to be proud of your Memorial because, in the name of those we left behind, the operation of the Memorial Room in the Norwich Central Library has brought a tremendous amount of good-will to the United States. I guess you could say that those we left behind have never stopped fighting for their country, and won't stop fighting just so long as we, the living, remember them.

We have had many donations in large amounts, but those two and five dollar donations count one heck of a lot also. We still have a long way to go, but \$50,000 by 1980 IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE. If you can only send your 'good wishes' with your dues check we appreciate your concern and thought. If you can add a dollar or two we appreciate that also.

WELCOME GUESTS

(The Eastern Evening News)

Just 30 years ago, with Britain in an exuberant mood celebrating the victory in Europe, the first steps were taken towards establishing a memorial to American airmen killed in flying missions from East Anglian bases.

Now that memorial, the American Room at Norwich Central Library, has become a reality as one of the modern treasures of which the city is proud.

And today the city is proud also to be the venue for the annual meeting of the 2nd Air Division Association. The Americans themselves call it a convention, but to the English mind that word conjures up all the razzamatazz of the annual political conference.

FRIENDSHIP

Norwich people playing host to the annual meeting for the second time in three years realise that the members come both in reverence to their fallen comrades and in friendship to the city and its neighbourhood.

So there will be no mini-skirted majorettes or big bands at this convention. It will in fact be an annual meeting with the business conducted in the sober surroundings of the Norwich City Council chamber and receptions at country homes and historic buildings in Norwich.

Over the last 30 years Britain and America have had their disappointments and some of them have been bitter. But the bond of friendship and understanding which prompted the idea of an American memorial in Norwich is the kind that has

Jonathan Mardle writes about

THE AMERICAN MEMORIAL

It occurred to me at the week-end that the Norwich of 1945 is the one that thousands of Americans remember – some of them perhaps more clearly than I do. For there was a remarkable period in local history that I, in common with others who were overseas, missed. This was the period 1942-44, when the U.S.A.A.F. joined the R.A.F. in the assault from the air upon Germany, and the level fields of East Anglia were like one vast air base. Three hundred thousand of the 8th U.S. Air Force were stationed in Britain. Fifty thousand of the 2nd Air Division, with their headquarters at Ketteringham Hall, just outside Norwich, serviced and flew the great Liberator bombers, which, with their fighter escorts, started their raids from airfields in Norfolk and Suffolk. Six thousand of that division died in the air war that was fought from East Anglia.

Other people have described the Liberators massing, layer above layer, in droning circles in the Norfolk sky, as they assembled for their raids across the North Sea; the nights broken by the wail of sirens giving warning of German counter-raids, the "rump-rump-rump" of bombs, the bark of anti-aircraft fire; the listening for the return of the allied aircraft in groups or singly – some, crippled, to crash in the fields. And there must have been times in 1943 and 1944, off duty, when there were more young Americans than young Englishmen in the Norwich streets.

The 2nd Air Division, before they left in 1945, subscribed a fund of £20,000 and entrusted it to a Norwich board of governors to erect a memorial to their dead. It took eighteen years before Norwich, concentrating on the reconstruction of its industries, house-building and school-building, was able to complete the new Central Library in which the American memorial was to be incorporated. Meanwhile the 2nd Air Division Association which had been formed in the U.S. in 1948, waited patiently. They came over in hundreds, in 1963, for the dedication of the memorial at a spectacular and deeply moving service at St. Peter Mancroft Church, and for the opening by the Queen Mother of the American library and reading room in the new library.

Every year they have kept up a supply of American books for the library. In 1972 they returned to Norwich for their annual convention. Last week they came back again – over four hundred of them.

always shone through any controversy.

It was imaginative and far-sighted of the Americans to establish their own memorial as a way of furthering that entente.

This week-end Norwich welcomes the ex-Service men and extends a trans-Atlantic greeting.

(They explained that there would have been more but for the currency inflation which has hit America as well as ourselves.) I was privileged to attend their meeting in the Council chamber of the City Hall. Men now grey-haired announced themselves as coming from Pennsylvania or California, Alabama or Michigan, and talked familiarly about Hethel or Rackheath, Bungay or Metfield. They brought gifts of books for the library, medals and pictures for the Norwich collection of Americana, addresses from their home cities to the Lord Mayor.

And the burden of their discussion was extraordinary. They spoke not of a declining but an increasing membership of the Association. They were raising a fund 50,000 dollars so that the endowment of their memorial should keep pace with the inflation, and the supply of American literature should possibly be extended to other Norfolk libraries. Beyond this, there was talk of approaches to charitable foundations, and of an attempt to raise a much larger sum, which would provide not only for the supply of books to libraries, but for scholarships and for educational travel between England and the United States – "a living memorial" which would outlast its founders and serve future generations.

It was a bold discussion at a time of political, economic and moral stress for both our countries. Underlying it was an anxiety that, whatever plans there might be for an extension of the Trust in the future, nothing should detract from the care of the memorial room in Norwich, which is close to the hearts of the survivors of the 2nd Air Division. I went with one of them to the library. He wanted to look at the fountain in the courtyard, which has, embedded in the bottom of its pool, stones from every state in the Union. He was concerned that one or two of the stones were missing, and wanted them replaced.

There is nothing else quite like this maintenance, by the veterans of the 2nd Air Division, of a memorial in the capital of the English province in which they served. We should be proud of the place East Anglia still holds in their affections. One of them wrote in 1947:

"England gave compensation for the life of combat and work. We lived in the cold of its winter. The peace and beauty of its spring and summer were salted with the bitterness of war. Its people were our friends – though to some they were too like us to be considered foreign, and their tolerance of bad plumbing, cold, and what we thought was lack of progress, did not too much endear them to us."

This was an honest impression, written very close to the time when it was formed. It is heartening now to find that the affection – although not the Norfolk climate – has grown warmer while thirty years have rolled by.

LETTERS

Dear Evelyn:

We have just held our Central Southwest 466th Bomb Group Rally in Arlington, Texas. It was a big success. Just hope you can come to our next one in San Antonio, Texas in 1976.

A collection was taken and we received \$120.00. We would like for you to give this to the 2nd Air Division Library Memorial Trust - from the Central Southwest 466th B.G.

If you will take care of this matter for us we will appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Leslie M. Thompson

Dear Evelyn:

How time does fly when you are running short of such a precious essential. It seems only yesterday I was agonizing over not being able to go to Norwich.

I want to thank you for collecting the various news items and sending me copies. I was glad that the 2nd Air Division still maintains a solid 'hold' on the memories of the people in and around Norwich.

I received a warm letter from the 'Lord Mayor' wishing my wife a speedy recovery. It was good of the 'lady' to do this. However, I am anxiously waiting to receive the Newsletter that will cover the entire proceedings.

I also want to thank you for writing to George Brown, Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff, before you left. His aide called me on the phone to say that the General had arranged for me to travel on a VIP plane to the reunion and return so I would not have to stay away so long. This would have been ideal but the woman I had planned to have for my wife's companion while away could not arrange it. I had no choice but to stay home. It was very good of you to think of this and ordinarily it would have been the perfect solution - as most of your solutions are.

Thanks again for everything and may you have the best of luck in everything.

Sincerely,
W. E. Kepner, Maj. Gen. Ret.

Dear Bill:

It has been one week since we returned from the finest trip we have ever been on. Yourself, Evelyn, Bill Brooks and all the others are to be congratulated for a very professional job of planning, scheduling and execution of this mission.

We were completely unprepared for the magnitude of events in and around Norwich. Those marvelous buffets, tours and presentation to the Lord Mayor were such a delightful change from our normal life.

I don't think any one of us will forget our feelings as we pulled up to that B-24 at Duxford. When those engines cranked over and those fans began to roar again I certainly had 'goose bumps'.

One highlight followed another. The tour through Blickling Hall with the lawn party had to be the most "English" panorama I can imagine. When the RAF's Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane swept in on that memorable fly by in battle colors I think I felt the ties of friendship probably the strongest.

The nostalgic trips back through the bases, the Pubs and shops were a thrill. Probably the most emotional impact came for us when an Englishman came up to me, shook hands and thanked all for what we did for them in the 40's. He said they were glad we came then and so glad we came back now.

Thanks again to all of those who made such a marvelous memorable trip possible.

Sincerely,
Ray and Mary Rhoades

Dear Evelyn:

In response to your prompt and very welcome reply to my inquiry letter of last week - yes I do believe! Fact is, I've reached that age where I'm certain that everything is possible, including a preponderance of self made ignorance!

I was delighted to read of what, in reality, is a testimony of you few who've kept the memory of the great 8th A.F. Liberator Groups burning as bright as their targets. Equally happy to learn of what became of the "Memorial Fund" I helped collect at Hethel. You've done an outstanding continuing effort, please accept and relay my congratulations to all concerned.

Where've I been these last 30 years? I guess I just lost touch, and since the bigotted narrow minded attitudes of our assorted veterans organizations (all of them) turned me off I saw no merit of re-doing Anzio - or Ploesti - or St Lo weekly at the Legion Bar. So I quietly set about to becoming a solid civilian citizen with no greater ambition than to make a million and explode the population a bit. I failed the first miserably and was an outstanding success at the latter which kept me facing each day as a "maximum effort mission".

However on reaching my 51st birthday in '71 I decided that Martin had labored long and hard and since he had watched and admired "airplane drivers" for many many years decided to become one himself. I am now single engine land and sea instrument rated and spend many happy hours in my flying clubs Skylane terrorizing the New York T.C.A. "shooting down" all intruders (747's - 707's - DC10's - and whatever dares cross my spinner.) I don't go in much for bombing because I don't like to look down!

Of course since this new interest I devour aviation magazines and hard cover books - read "Log of the Liberators" not long ago and felt there was not near enough said about US - the 2nd A.D.

When I read your item in "Flight Line News" I felt like the long lost banana who'd finally found his bunch - Amen!

Enclosed is my check and application for membership - I feel almost ashamed joining at such a late date - but thanks (to you) for the opportunity - and from me to you - deepest admiration for your own contribution of unselfish dedication.

Cordially,
Martin H. (Marty) Schreck

Dear Miss, Ms or Mrs. Cohen:

Delighted to know of the existence of the 2nd Air Division Association. I am enclosing my application form for membership with my check for the \$5.00.

I understand from an article in the 8th AF News that I may be able to purchase a copy of "The Mighty Eighth" by Roger Freeman. I also would like to obtain a copy of the book by Holmes Alexander. I believe it was titled "A History of the 467th Bomb Group". My original copy was lost when my home burned.

Sincerely,
William S. Sullivan

(ed. note: Try 'Evelyn' Bill. She'll respond to anything, even 'Hey You', but 'Evelyn' sounds so much better. Sorry about a copy of "The Mighty Eighth" but we had to stop selling that book for reasons you wouldn't believe. Can't help you with the 467th history either as that has been out of print for many a moon. Try us on something easy!)

Dear Miss Cohen,

Enclosed is a check for \$25. Please pay my yearly dues and apply the remainder toward our Memorial in Norwich.

I have greatly enjoyed the Newsletter and deeply appreciate being a member of such a wonderful group.

All the best,
Michael J. Neri
Col. USAF (Ret.)

Dear Tom (Eaton),

I hope you will let the American Memorial Trustees know how grateful we are for the opportunity to ask Colonel Leeds to speak at the University. He gave one talk for sixth formers on 4th June, and then an Open Lecture on the following evening, both of which attracted large and enthusiastic audiences, and he was also kind enough to allow question sessions afterwards, which could, I think, have gone on indefinitely.

I am sure that both these large audiences would wish me to express their gratitude to our Trust for offering us this opportunity to hear about the American Space Programme, and see a quite remarkable series of slides.

Yours ever,
Frank Thistlethwaite
Vice-Chancellor

Dear Hazel and Bill:

Joyce and I enjoyed our time with you personally and we were thrilled with the entire trip.

The 28th reunion in Norwich was superb in every detail and we thank you for your very considerable efforts that made it so. It was quite evident to us that the groundwork which you laid on your trip in 1974 with Evelyn and the Warths made it possible for the subsequent success of the reunion. All of you - and Tom Eaton - and all of our British friends who provided the gracious hospitality deserve the grateful thanks of all of us who attended.

I've been to 24 of the 28 reunions - including all three in Norwich - and this one ranks with the best. Having been involved with the running of many of our early reunions Joyce and I know how much effort it requires - how much thought, prayer and sweat - and we found it marvelous that all of the complicated details were so professionally executed. The plane trip, the bus transportation, the rapid and efficient hotel room assignments, the wonderful social programs and the tremendous feeling of warmth which was extended by our friends in Norwich.

Needless to say our President Bill Brooks deserves our congratulations for a job well done, and I'm sure he feels as grateful as we do to you all who arranged our trip.

Most cordially,
Jordan Uttal

(ed. note: The rest of us helped Jordan, but the kudos have to go to Evelyn. You have worked with her in the past so you know what I'm talking about. She takes very little of the credit - but she deserves it all. That's our Evvie!)

Dear Ms. Cohen:

I happened to hear about the 2nd Air Division Association through a local acquaintance of mine who was in the 44th Bomb Group.

I was in the 389th Bomb Group and spent 23 months in England during World War II and even brought home a souvenir since my wife was born in England.

We made a trip back to England in 1971, and of course I had to go and revisit Norwich, even hiring a taxi to revisit Hethel Air Base which had been turned into an automobile testing ground.

Am enclosing check in the amount of \$5.00 and request that my name be placed on the 2nd ADA rolls.

Sincerely yours,
Max H. Renov

Dear Bill:

Keep up the nostalgia items. You can't have enough of the sights, sounds and places of the war years.

Sincerely,
Cleo Ralph Beggs

HORSHAM ST. FAITH

by Rick Rokicki
(458th BG)

To those members who were unable to make the 28th annual reunion of the 2nd AD in Norwich "you missed it". Not only was the charter operation from Chicago and Philadelphia right on schedule, but all plans after arrival fell perfectly into place. Before much more is said all of us should give Evelyn Cohen a big "Thanks girl. You really did a great job".

The business meeting, castle reception, banquet at the old Lido (now the Norwood Arms), visits to the old bases sure brought back some nostalgic memories.



754th Sqdn. hangar, 458th B.G.
Horsham St. Faith, June 1975.

The Horsham St. Faith airfield is still active as a civilian airport and is a jumping off place to visit the Scandinavian and low countries. Old familiar sights were still there however light industry, warehouses etc. have settled in. Fifer's Lane - hardly more than a cow path 30 years ago - carries traffic much as a boulevard now.

I ventured into the hangar once used by the 754th squadron of the 458th Group. No huge 2 x 4s in sight. Small light aircraft of the Cessna & Piper variety plus a Fairchild F-28 and some British counterparts occupied that space. Gone were the sounds of feverish activity that once meant another B-24 would be on

the morning's flite line and ready for its role in the air war.

I looked into the room I recall once being the armament shop. At some time before the 458th arrival a Britisher had a sign painted on the wall that read "SIGN YOUR K-9 OR YOUR KITE WON'T FLY". Of course it was gone, covered by perhaps a dozen coats of paint, but it was still history that could be 'touched'. The hangars, buildings, tower etc. were still there. Not so at Rackheath and perhaps other bases.



All the memories but no airplanes - right? Only partly so since the trip to Duxford near Cambridge was still to come. When the caravan of tour busses neared the airfield a black and white vertical striped tail came into view - A B-24! Yes it was cause for a tear in your eye, a lump in your throat and perhaps even a catch of breath. Here it was, just like the old days. Not as many aircraft but as real as they ever were. The B-24, really a 'J' model made to look like the 389th 'H' model of 'Delectable Doris' would have warmed the cockles of your heart.

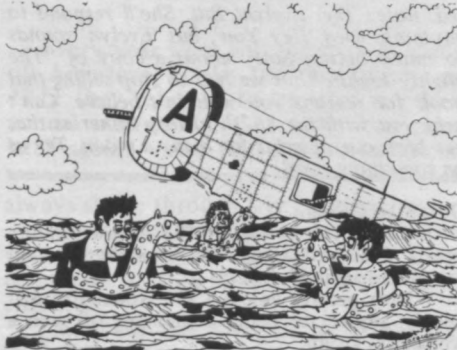
Number 3 engine reportedly 'threw a rod', but the remaining 3 engines were started without difficulty. Bill Graff and Doris were the subjects of the BBC TV people and were on 'center stage'. Bill admitted he hadn't climbed into a cockpit since leaving the service, but he handled those engine starts like an expert. Once learned never forgotten.

OUR OWN CARTOONIST!

In this issue we are introducing Guy Jacquemin who is a noted cartoonist and comic strip artist in Belgium. Guy has agreed to do a series of cartoons for the Newsletter and after seeing his first submissions, two of which are shown here, I am anxiously waiting for some more. Guy would like to hear from any member of the Association and his address is 6, Rue Devant Wacht, Saint-Leger, 6770 Province De Luxembourg, Belgium.



Sorry Sir, Sam refuses to go without his mascot . . .



O.K. Who's the wise guy!

Later over Blickling Hall the RAF made several fly by's with their Hurricane, Lancaster and Spitfire trio. Their salute to the 2nd Air Division Association and their good-by to us. It was one thing few of us will ever forget. It was truly a great experience.

Should the opportunity arise once again to re-visit as a Group, don't miss it. I'm sure I won't!

DUXFORD AND 'DELECTABLE DORIS'

For the past year members of "The Friends of the Eighth" have been refurbishing a B-24 that stopped by on its way from India to the United States and a museum.

Given free rein by its owner, David Tallichet, to paint it in authentic colors of the WW II period they elected to duplicate the nose art and markings of 'Delectable Doris' from the 389th Bomb Group, a plane originally flown by Bill Graff.



Doris & Bill Graff pose beside 'Delectable Doris'

Arrangements had been made for us to stop by on our way to the Memorial Day Service at Cambridge. The aircraft was easily spotted from the road and those busses emptied in nothing flat. 'Delectable Doris' was on the flight line looking every bit 'ready to roll'.

It so happened that Bill Graff and his wife Doris (the original 'Delectable') were with us and it was only fitting and proper that Bill should 'fire up' the old bird. This he did recalling all his professionalism of 30 years ago, and when those engines caught I don't think there was a dry eye in the house. Many blamed it on the rain that was falling but who do they think they were kidding!

Joining us for this occasion was B/G James Stewart. After extricating himself from the unruly mob of television people who injected themselves into the festivities he was able to take a close look at 'Delectable Doris' and the look on his face spoke volumes. "Did I really fly that bird!"



B/G James Stewart