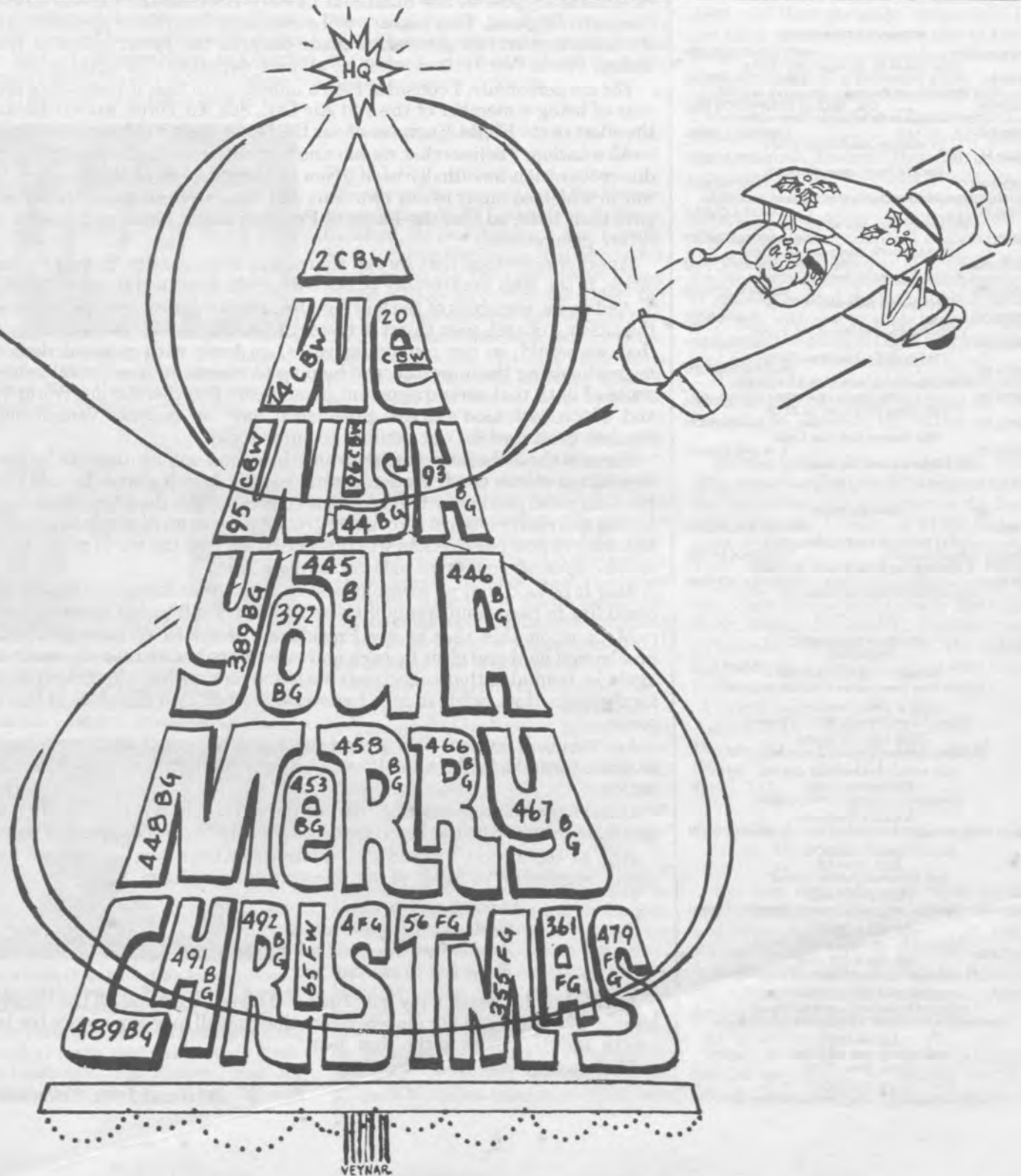


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SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

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Second Air Division Association Eighth Air Force

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President's Message



Members of the 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force, as I begin my term of office, serving as President of our organization for the years 1985-86, I would like to share with the membership as a whole, my comments in my acceptance speech at our reunion held at the Americana Great Gorge Resort in McAfee, New Jersey, Sept. 5, 6, 7th.

My remarks will be in the form of a few personal observations as to the direction I believe we should put forth our efforts during my term of office.

I believe that we should as the 2nd Air Div., 8th Air Force, continually keep our efforts attuned to the central goal of our organization, that being the continued support of our Memorial Library Room in the Central Library at Norwich, England. This Library will continue to keep those memories alive of the contribution our generation made towards the preservation of freedom during World War II, long after we all have departed this world scene.

For me personally, I consider 1985 a milestone in that it represents my 30th year of being a member of the 2nd Air Div., 8th Air Force, mainly because of the effort of the Flight Engineer of our B-24 crew, Walter Gibson, now deceased.

As a nation, I believe that we saw another milestone in the year 1985, in that due recognition has finally been given to the veterans of the Vietnam War, a war in which so many of our own sons and daughters so gallantly served and gave their lives, so that the Lamp of Freedom might again be passed down to future generations.

Another milestone that we can share as an organization during my term of office, is the 40th anniversary of our victory in Europe during World War II.

And as we, members of the 2nd Air Div., 8th Air Force, gradually become by the passing of each year, a part of history's fleeting scene, it would be my desire that we would, in our remaining years, go forth with renewed dedication, re-emphasizing the importance of helping to maintain those moral values and sense of duty that was so apparent in our years together during World War II and which with God's divine providence, saw our enemies vanquished and freedom preserved for our families to enjoy today.

For it is these moral values that have been and will continue to be the very foundation stones of a truly democratic society. May it always be said that the freedom we so gloriously fought for and our comrades died for, would continue to ring as a clear message across this great nation as an example to generations following of how our freedom was preserved and that the world might continue to look upon us as a great bastion for democracy.

May it be said that we gave our best so that our children and grandchildren could live in peace and tranquility, as citizens of a free and great nation.

My goal in this year of my Presidency would be to have this message proclaimed loud and clear by each and every member, so that the world might again be reminded that collectively we stand as a nation, along with its allies, for the individual rights of men to determine their own destinies in this world scene.

I can think of no more fitting words with which to conclude my message than to quote from the Bible, Luke 12 vs. 48, as a reminder of our responsibility as a nation.

Quote: "From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."

And in conclusion I would also quote a few lines from one of my favorite songs, reminding us again of our most glorious heritage.

*"America, America
God shed his grace on thee
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea."*

In this holiday season, my wife June and myself wish you all the happiest of holiday greetings and our sincere desire that you all may experience the best of health and happiness in the New Year.

Shalom and May God Bless All.

BUD and JUNE KOORNDYK



by Pete Henry
(44th BG)

The 38th Annual 2ADA Reunion is history and it was another super affair. Elsewhere in the Journal you will read the details, but it is this observer's opinion that we had about 1000 people there. There were 57 44thrs at the mini-reunion 5 Sept. and two crews of five and one crew of four were present. Shown below is Charlie Mercer's crew of five and Dick Habedank's crew of four and Tom Kay's crew of four.



Mercer's Crew (L to R) — Bill Church, Co-Pilot; Bill Rand, Engineer; Jesse Burton, Waist Gunner; Walter Zee, Tail Gunner and Charlie Mercer, Pilot.



Habedank's Crew (L to R) — Al Urania, Engineer; Elwood Matter, Assistant Engineer; J. C. Wheatley, Nose Gunner; Mel Murrack, Armorer Gunner. Habedank was unable to attend the reunion.



Kay's Crew (L to R) — Dan Valenti, Navigator; Bob Swank, Engineer; Charles Blatchley, Bombardier; Tom Kay, Pilot

Also present were three members of the original 27 crews that went over in 1943: Tom Laskowski, Ted Scarlett, and Joe Flaherty. With the help of two TV sets

and a VCR, we saw a video tape of WWII narrated by Walter Cronkite — "Target Ploesti" and the 2ADA tape IV — "The Mission". Yours truly was re-elected Group Vice-President for another year and it is hoped that the action of those present meets with the approval of the rest of you who were unable to attend the reunion. I thank you all for putting me in office again.

On Friday, 6 Sept., we were blessed with excellent, though hot, weather for the trip to West Point and a Memorial Service in the Cadet Chapel. During the Service, the 2ADA Group Vice-Presidents completed a Memorial Roll Call of former West Point Graduates who were lost in the war or who have passed away since their return. It was an honor for me to remember: Thomas R. Cramer, Maxwell W. Sullivan, Frederick R. Dent, Vernon C. Smith.

For several years, we have been trying to locate a former 44th pilot, Joe Testa. While I was attending the reunion, my wife saw an obituary notice in the Newark paper listing WWII pilot John J. Testa, Cranford, NJ and showing a son, Joseph, as a survivor. Believing that the father might be the Joe Testa that we are trying to find, I drove up to visit the widow and her son. They informed me that the husband's nickname was 'Jack', not Joe. However, I did discover that Jack Testa was a pilot in the 492nd B.G. and the 44th B.G. in 1944 and, if anyone is interested in contacting the family, they live at 10 Sutton Place, Cranford, NJ 07016. Jack was a member of the Retired Officers Assn. but he never knew anything about the 2ADA. The irony of it all is that they have been living in Cranford for the past 15 years and we lived in Cranford from 1968-1974 and never met. I've also had notices in the Newark paper at least two times providing information about the 2ADA and one of the reporters did a feature article on my experiences in England in WWII but he never saw it apparently.

We recently signed a new member, Allen 'Bill' Miller from Mt. Vernon, IN and, in his membership application, he stated that his ship was "My Akin' Ass" and was shot down 3 times. I wrote to him inquiring about this and his reply reads in part; "We had an 'H' model B-24 but our pilot taxied it off of the dispersal area and got hung up in the mud on take-off. Our C.O., Major Middleton, was a bright shade of red and took our new plane away from us and assigned it to another crew. He gave us "My Akin Ass" which had 127 combat missions and was shot down 3 times but I have no way of confirming this. Coming home, we had to stop over at Merville, FR because we ran out of gas and then we were supposed to stop at Goose Bay to gas up again but we shut off the radio and flew right on into Connecticut. I turned on the SOS blinker because we didn't have

enough gas to circle the field but landed fine. A 90-day wonder tried to chew us out but Lt. Jack Suane, our pilot, a former professional wrestler, dispatched him on his way."

I would be interested in hearing from anyone who can contribute to the "Saga of My Akin Ass".

You may have noticed that this column has a new column heading — no longer 8-Ball-Y-Hoo. The 8-Ball photo was sent to me by John Wolbarst, Boston, MA, with his letter which I am quoting in part: "You may recall that someone painted 8-Ball signs for all the different departments on the field. I photographed all of them and they are quite interesting. If you think that people would like to have them, I could print up a number and make them available at a nominal cost. I have signs for: Link Trainer; 464th Sub Depot; EM Club and Station Theatre; Radio Maintenance; Supply; 831st Air Eng. Sqdn.; Bomb Trainer; Hospital; Headquarters; "Hats Off — This Means You"

I was a M/Sgt. in charge of bombsights, autopilots and Sperry gunsights and I also ran the bomb trainer. I designed the conversion that made it possible to use the Norden sight with the British trainer. If you ever piloted the lead plane, I probably flew with you at some time or other as I made pre-mission flight checks of the lead plane for most missions."

If anyone is interested in obtaining any of these photos, John's address is: 790 Boylston St., Boston, MA.02199

Most of you will recall that the 44th B.G. oversubscribed the \$750 requested for the Individual Roll of Honor in the Norwich Memorial Library. A \$1000 endowment was presented to the 2AD Memorial Trust for the purpose of buying books with the income from the endowment. I'm sure you will be pleased to learn that Colin Sleth, Deputy Divisional Librarian wrote to me 9 July 85 advising that the following books have been purchased with these funds:

AUTHOR	TITLE
Adams, L.D.	Wines Of America
Boyne, W.J.	Phantom In Combat
Chant, C.	Bell UH-1
Rosa, J.G.	Guns Of The American West
Zaloga, S. & Green, M.	US Infantry Combat Vehicles Today

Get your reservations in NOW for the 2ADA reunion in Chicago July 10-13, 1986 and Norwich, England, May 21-25, 1987. We can handle 1000 or more in Chicago but about 500 will be the limit for Norwich and Evelyn Cohen will accept reservations on a first come, first served basis.

Since you will be reading this in December, let me sign off by wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Memorial Address

by Jordan R. Uttal

United States Military Academy — 6 September 1985

Let us remember our fine young men today, not with tears, but rather with mature and peaceful acceptance of the sacrifice they made. Let us remember them with happy recollections of their eternal youth and vigor. Let us remember with pride in them, and indeed in ourselves, and our British friends of the Memorial Trust, that a truly one of a kind, Living Memorial, in their honor, was conceived, created, established and is maintained in Norwich.

Let me speak of them, and of ourselves. In words of Holy Scripture, from Second Samuel we have heard these words, "They were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions." And this Biblical classic closes with the sad admonition, "How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished."

Today we gather again, forty years after the 2nd Air Division returned from its years of combat in the E.T.O., from combat against an enemy that sought to end freedom as we had come to know it and love it, in a free world.

Those of us who live, and remember, are here to pay solemn tribute to our fallen comrades. They were members of the 14 Bomber Groups, and the 5 Fighter Groups of the 2nd Air Division, one of the most powerful combat machines ever to go to the defense of an embattled nation and a beleaguered continent.

They fought their battles in the skies one day at a time.

Those who fell in battle died, one day at a time.

We who buried them wept one day at a time . . . and carried on the war.

The gigantic scope of the Division's operations emerged vividly in those first days of peace in the summer of 1945. Then as the final totals were assembled, we saw that these fallen eagles and lions of the 2nd Air Division numbered well over 6,000, swift eagles that would fly no more, strong lions whose days of battle were done. Sad thoughts, indeed.

But, let us take comfort, for in our hearts and minds, those youthful faces, those carefree young men who fought hard, and played hard, still live, and will live forever, young, enthusiastic, fun loving, and brave.



In the cemetery at Arlington, in letters of gold, carved in white marble, is this inscription, "When we took the soldier, we did not forget the citizen." So, today, we of the 2nd Air Division Association do not forget our fine young men. From November 1942 thru April 1945, from North Africa to Norway, from Omaha Beach to Gdynia, from the war factories in the Rhineland to the oilfields of Ploesti, they fought a war to a victory, with a promise of peace.

Here in this beautiful Cadet Chapel, dedicated to a Supreme Being we all worship, let us take new strength from the ancient

words, in the 4th chapter of Micah. "And He shall judge among many people and shall decide for strong nations, afar off, and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation shall not lift up sword against Nation, neither shall they learn war anymore."

We will see here today at our beloved United States Military Academy, new strong young lions. It is our prayer that their names will never have to be inscribed in a Book of Remembrance, as are those of our fine young men.

For these cadets, there is a tradition of service, a heritage of devotion, bought at a precious price. Thus do the fallen of our 2nd Air Division still serve, and honor themselves as in the words of a wartime President, "Far beyond our poor power to add, or detract."

I ask you here, today, in honor of them, to share on their behalf a feeling of pride and accomplishment in the part you have played in fulfilling the objective of our Memorial in England. We do, indeed, have a Living Memorial to our fallen.

The charter of our 2nd Air Division Association proclaims our purpose, to perpetuate the friendships and memories of our service in the 2nd Air Division, in England in World War II.

Our fallen, those fine young men, are an indelible part of those friendships and memories. Be joyful, that as long as we live, and long after, They will be remembered!!!



West Point Chapel where services were held to honor those graduates of the Academy who served in the Second Air Division and have since passed on.

2nd Air Division Association, 8th Air Force

GENERAL BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 1985, McAfee, New Jersey

Meeting was called to order by President, Fred Thomas at 9:08 a.m. There were 600 members in attendance at this time constituting a quorum.

Mr. Jeff Landers, Manager Americana Hotel, was introduced at this time. Mr. Landers presented a check in the amount of \$7,500 to Mr. Thomas as a donation from the hotel to the Second Air Division Association Memorial Trust Fund.

Members of the Executive Committee seated on the dais were introduced by President Thomas. They were: Andy Low, Parliamentarian; Jordan Uttal, 2nd ADA Representative on the Board of Governors Memorial Trust; Bill Robertie, V.P. *Journal*; Evelyn Cohen, V.P. Membership; Vincent LaRussa, Chairman Audit/Budget Committee; Dean Moyer, Treasurer and Frank Thomas, Secretary. Other introductions included Rick and Cecil Rokicki, Pete Henry, Tom Eaton, David Hastings, Alfred Jenner, guests from England and members of the Board of Governors Memorial Trust.

President Thomas requested that anyone speaking from the floor identify themselves by name and group number.

President Thomas reported on actions taken by the 2nd ADA since he assumed office in October 1984. Included in this report were decisions reached at the mid-year Executive Committee meeting held in Wilmington, Delaware on March 22-23. He reported the Executive Committee is committed to the goals of the Association and is firmly supportive of the actions of the committee members and representatives of the committee.

Dave Patterson moved that all members present be declared delegates to this 38th Annual Business Meeting of the Second Air Division Association, 8th A.F. Motion seconded by Jim Halligan and carried.

The secretary read the minutes of the 37th Annual Business Meeting held in Palm Springs, California, Saturday, October 7, 1984. Corrections were called for and the secretary was instructed to make the following corrections: Change the group endowment group number from the 467th BG to read the 466th BG and change the \$9,639 dollar interest income to 9,639 pounds interest income. It was moved by Ken Boyd, seconded by Joe Wittaker to accept the minutes as corrected. Motion carried.

Dean Moyer gave the Treasurer's report. Special instructions were given the Group V.P.s in submitting postage expenses and use of *Journal* in communicating with group members. Moyer clarified and ex-

plained certain entries as printed in his report in the June issue of the *Journal*. It was moved to accept and file the Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Vincent LaRussa gave the Budget and Audit Committee report. He stated the committee had examined all Bank Accounts, Certificates of Deposit, Savings, etc. and found everything to be in order and in agreement with the Treasurer's report. Income and expense items were spot checked by the committee and found to be accurately accounted for. The committee's report was accepted as given by LaRussa.

Evelyn Cohen, V.P. Membership, reported there were 5601 members in good standing at this time. Dates for the 1986 Annual Meeting are July 10-13 to be held at Pheasant Run Lodge, St. Charles, Illinois. The 1987 Annual Meeting will be held May 21-25, Norwich, England. Hotel rooms and meeting facilities will be limited in Norwich, 550 to 600 will be the maximum number we will be able to accommodate. There will be a fifty dollar (\$50) non-refundable deposit required for the '87 meeting. Bill Robertie was presented a clock in recognition of his services to the Association as Editor of the *Journal* and other duties performed for the Association. Evelyn answered questions from the floor as to the various methods available in locating members. Membership chairman's report accepted.

Bill Robertie, V.P. *Journal*, thanked all Group V.P.s and individuals for their help in providing material for the *Journal*. It is hoped we can more efficiently use available space in the future. He explained the economics of changing from first class mail to a third class permit in mailing of the *Journal*. It was moved by Floyd Mabee, seconded by Fred Walsh and carried to accept Robertie's report.

Jordan Uttal gave the report on the Memorial Trust and functions of the Board of Governors. Jordan thanked the Group V.P.s and Paul King for the aid given him in researching the Rolls of Honor.

State of the Memorial Trust and 2nd ADA Capital Fund income for the year: I reported last year that the value of the Capital Fund was approximately 130,000 pounds including market value of the investments and endowments, plus other assets. This year the market value of the investments and endowments, plus other assets, has increased to 162,000 pounds, an appreciation of 14.5% — 14,500 pounds of the increase derived from the 18,000 pounds we gave in 1984. Of the six securi-

ties held by the trust, four had appreciated in value while two had depreciated. Interest income from the trust was lower this year than last year. Expenses exceeded income by 82 pounds due primarily to an extra 1,000 pounds grant to the Library. Use of the Library has increased 14.2% during the current year. This increased use is traced to the presence of an intern librarian and the showing of David Hastings two films "A Village Remembers" and "Remember Them". A local grant of 2,000 pounds made it possible to employ the intern librarian. If there are any questions left unanswered, please feel free to write to me for needed answers and information pertaining to the trust and the library functions.

Tom Eaton, Chairman Board of Governors, brought greetings from England and reported on his 36 years of serving the Memorial Trust as a member of the Board of Governors. President Thomas thanked Mr. Eaton for his remarks. Jim Reeves moved to accept Mr. Eaton's report. Motion carried.

Mr. Thomas asked if there was any old business to come before the meeting. There being none, he asked if there was any new business to come before the meeting. Fred Meyer, Director of Public Relations, stated he would be in room 810 if any member had any questions he wished to ask.

Charles Freudenthal gave the report of the nominating committee. The slate for the Executive Committee members nominated were:

E. (Bud) Koorndyk, President 389th BG
James Reeves,

Executive Vice President	Hdq.
Bill Robertie, V.P. <i>Journal</i>	44th BG
Evelyn Cohen, V.P. Membership	Hdq.
Dean Moyer, Treasurer	Hdq.
Frank Thomas, Secretary	453rd BG

Nominations from the floor were called for — there being none, Phil Day moved that the nominating committee report be accepted and the slate as presented be elected. Motion seconded and carried.

Group Vice Presidents representatives:

Lloyd West, VP	389th BG
William Davenport, VP	446th BG
David Swearington, VP	467th BG

Ex-Officio members:

J. Fred Thomas
Charles Freudenthal
Andrew S. Low

Meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Thomas, Secretary

Our 38th Convention . . . In a Word — Awesome!!!!

by Jordan Uttal

What a shame, that all 5800 of our members could not have partaken of the wonderfully warm experiences which we enjoyed at our recent Convention to New Jersey!! Still, considering that the majority of us are in our 60's and 70's, scattered throughout 50 States and 12 foreign countries, it is nothing short of awesome that actually 1,061 of us shared the joys of reunion with old and new friends. Of that number about 20% were FIRST TIMERS!

So, another grateful bow to Evelyn Cohen and all who helped her for arranging yet another great program in beautiful surroundings. To those who could not make it, we hope that you enjoy this account, and that you will try to join us next year in the Chicago area, either as a repeater or a first timer.

At McAfee, we saw old friends, shared reminiscences, remembered the friends we lost, and once again, made a substantial contribution to our Memorial that preserves their memory. It serves as a reminder to those of us who survived, and will, to succeeding generations, of the struggle we waged, the victory we won, and the price that was paid.

We repeat, it is awesome that 40 years after the end of the War, almost 20% of our entire membership came together again, in the spirit of our Association's purposes, preserving friendships and remembering the almost 6,300 we lost.

The convention was to start on Thursday 5 September, but as always there was a goodly number of "Early Birds" who arrived on Wednesday or before. For them there was a get-together on Wednesday evening, and we were off to a good start, in and with, good spirits. We were very pleased that three British members of our Board of Governors, Tom Eaton (Chairman) and his wife, Robin, David and Jean Hastings, and Alfred and Peggy Jenner came from Norwich to share this gesture of mutual respect and affection with us.

Thursday started with the Golf tournament in which 57 of our members participated, as described elsewhere in this *Journal*. And while the golfers were releasing their pent up energies, there was a steady stream of arrivals amid cordial greetings, and as we see more and more, warm embraces.

That night there was a cocktail party for all of us, at which the good times flowed, after which we split off for our respective unit Mini Dinner Reunions. Each unit did its own thing, enjoyed each others company, discussed matters pertaining to their own activities, and ended up by electing their own Group Vice Presidents for the coming year.

Friday morning the busses left for West Point for our Memorial Service which provided one of the emotional highlights of

the Convention. We assembled in the Cadet Chapel, a superb example of Gothic architecture. After an interval of organ music, and prayers by two of the three Chaplains, we were welcomed by our President, Fred Thomas who introduced the Dean of Academic Studies of the United States Military Academy, Brig. Gen. Flint addressed us and stressed the considerable accomplishments of Air Power. He pointed out that in the past ten years at West Point he had never seen the chapel as full.

Andy Low responded to Gen. Flint's remarks and presented a gift of \$1,000.00 from the Association for the Cadet Fund in appreciation of our being given access to such serenely beautiful facilities. He then paid tribute to the 16 West Point graduates who served with the 2nd Air Division who had lost their lives in combat, or passed away since the end of the War. His remarks were stirringly reinforced by having each Group Vice President rise and pronounce the name(s) of those who had served with his Group.

Andy was followed by Jordan Uttal who briefly emphasized the special nature of the physical and educational atmosphere at West Point, and the resulting and enduring effect it had on the caliber of the West Pointers we knew in our service days. He then introduced the three 2nd Air Division West Point alumni in the audience, Col. Albert J. Shower, Ret. (467th), Col. Fred Holdredge, Ret. (467th) and Maj. Gen. Andrew S. Low, Ret. (453rd), in response to which the audience rose in salute to these men and their fellow alumni. He then gave the Memorial Address which is printed elsewhere in this issue.

Following the Memorial Address, we heard the Rifle Volley Salute, and the Sounding of "Taps" outside the Chapel, after which the concluding Benediction was pronounced by the third Chaplain. Then followed the retiring of the Colors, a rousing Hymn and we left the Chapel spiritually refreshed.

The weather was sunny and hot, but cold beer and soft drinks flowed in great abundance, and there was a more than ample buffet lunch to restore the emotional energies we expended at the Memorial Service. After lunch we had a brief bus tour of the grounds of this revered Institution, situated high above the Hudson River, commanding a breathtaking view and stimulating an awareness of the inspiring traditions of the Corps of Cadets whom we all have heard referred to at one time or another as the "Long Gray Line."

And so, back to McAfee to prepare for a relaxing evening Cocktail Party and Bar-B-Q, poolside, under a sky filled with stars, entertained by strolling musicians,

and encouraged by sporadic "sing-a-longs". Again, standing apart and looking at this 1,000 strong group of people, in animated conversation we again felt the word — awesome — in noting the satisfaction in the air from people so obviously enjoying each others company after 40 years!!

The business meeting Saturday morning was very well attended. The minutes of the meeting are printed elsewhere and we hope that they reflect the enthusiasm which was felt by the membership with the reports on the health of the Association, numerically and financially, and the continued favorable development of our Memorial as an educational facility, and as a tie that binds us to each other, to our departed friends, and to the people of East Anglia. The response to the presence of the three British members of the Board of Governors, and to the stimulating remarks of Tom Eaton was most enthusiastic.

Our Officers for 1985-86 were duly nominated and elected and appreciation was graciously expressed by Fred Thomas for the support he had received from the Executive Committee, the Group Vice Presidents, and the membership during his term of office.

The early afternoon was devoted to the showing of combat films, and 600 of us squeezed into the comfortable theatre designed to hold 500!!! Special thanks to Pete Henry for handling this popular event.

And so we proceeded to the conclusion of our festivities with our Poolside Cocktail Party and Banquet. The beautiful surroundings of the former, plus, of course, a drink or two contributed to a pleasingly relaxed entry to the Banquet Hall, instead of the usual rush! After a leisurely ten or fifteen minutes of locating the well marked areas of our Group tables the program began. The British and American National Anthems were beautifully sung by Carol Weiss Riches, Norwich born daughter of Peg and Charles Weiss (V.P. 93rd BG). Then followed our traditional Candle Lighting Ceremony which always produces goose bumps, some tears, and fond memories of friends who are no longer with us. The eloquent Invocation by Philip Day (467th) was followed by a leisurely served dinner, happily interspersed with dancing to the great music of the Ralph Rude band (in the Glenn Miller manner, of course).

After dinner, our M.C. Jordan Uttal, promising to adhere to a 60 minute limit introduced those at the head table. Further introductions were made of the elected Association officers and their wives, the 16 Past Presidents who attended, and their wives, Group Vice Presidents and their wives. Recognition was given to the group of wonderful WACS in the audience, and

2AD Personal History Program for American Memorial Room of the Norwich Library

We can now get this project underway since we have the information that is desired for the Personal History Cassettes.

These cassettes will be available in the Library for adults and children as history of what took place during the years we were stationed there. The BBC is also interested in reviewing them for possible broadcast in England.

At the beginning of the tape, give your name; Group and/or Groups with which you served; state you presently live in and state from which you entered service, if different from your present state.

The following are the questions for both *Combat and Ground Personnel*:

1. When did you join the AAF?
2. Where did you train and in what duties?
3. Any anecdotes related to your experience while training?
4. How and when did you make the journey to the U.K.?
5. Where were you based and what was your opinion of the facilities at the base or bases to which you were assigned?
6. Did you have opportunities to see the local neighborhood, and what impressed or depressed you?
7. Did you have any association with the British?
8. What did you think of them at that time?
9. Did you make any close friendships with the English people, and if so, how did you meet them?
10. What notable places did you visit in Britain, and where and how did you spend your leave?
11. Any anecdotes related to off the base activities.

Additional comments for *Combat Personnel Only*.

1. When did you join the organization with which you flew in the US or the UK?
2. Where and when were you assigned to a crew?
3. Were you assigned to an operational unit upon arriving in the UK or did you undertake further training?
4. How many missions did you fly and when did you complete your tour?
5. What were the most memorable missions?
6. If you were shot down, were you made a POW or did you evade capture?
7. Did you fly a particular aircraft and did it have a nickname?
8. Were there any notable crews or individuals in your unit?
9. What unusual or extraordinary happenings on combat missions do you recall?

Sketch out your comments in advance and then record them in a quiet atmosphere where there are no background noises, on as good a quality of tape as possible and try to limit it to 30 minutes. I might also suggest that you speak slowly and enunciate your words clearly so that none of your message is lost.

I have already started sketching mine and it's amazing how many details come to mind by following the above questions. I am hoping that when I receive all the cassettes, that all the Groups will be covered. Can I prevail upon you to *start this today* since I must have them no later than 1 March 1986? I must ship them to England no later than the 15th of March! You shouldn't have too much difficulty in locating a tape recorder from a friend, grandchildren or neighbor. I'm sure someone would be happy to help you with this, since it will be of historical value. I wish to thank you in advance for your help and cooperation in this project.

HATHY VEYNAR
4915 Bristow Drive
Annandale, Virginia 22003

Convention (continued)

In between introductions we were addressed briefly by Fred Thomas and others. Fred again gave thanks to his "team" and warm thanks were offered to the 7 ladies who assisted at the registration desk throughout the Convention. Also singled out were as many sons and daughters whom we knew were present because it is hoped that they will play a role in the years to come in carrying on what we have achieved.

promised continued support. Our new President, Bud Koorndyk appropriately voiced the hope that in our remaining years we will continue to emphasize the importance of the moral values and the sense of duty that we all reflected in our World War II years together. We were delighted to hear from Alfred Jenner who brought us greetings from an R.A.F. Reunion in Canada. He told us in his usual understated manner of how he first made our acquaintance, cheering on the B-24s he saw flying over his P.O.W. camp on their

way to targets. The audience reacted very favorably as always to the enthusiasm and devotion of David Hastings. He is dedicated to having us leave a successor group to carry on the relationship with the Board of Governors, other friends we have made in East Anglia, and their successors.

Then we were treated to the thrill of seeing Dean Moyer present a check in the amount of \$27,500.00 for the Memorial Trust 2nd Air Division USAAF to Tom Eaton. It will be applied to a ten year endowment from the Association, the income from which is to be used exclusively for the hiring of an Intern Librarian on a periodic basis. Tom's surprised, pleased, and as always, gracious acceptance remarks made us proud of you who have contributed to the growth of our Memorial Trust. (Of the \$27,500.00, \$20,000.00 was from member contributions during the past year and \$7,500.00 was a special gift from the Americana Hotel.)

At the 1984 Banquet in Palm Springs, a letter was read from the son of one of our members. The young man had reluctantly accompanied his father to the convention, and in his letter he expressed with reverence, the observation that after just two days with us he had come to the conclusion that his father and all who had served with him were true American heroes.

This made a strong impression on a lady who was at Palm Springs and with us at McAfee. She composed a poem dedicated to the Division, the Association, and our descendants. Jordan read it as a conclusion to the program, as follows:

FOR THE HISTORY BOOKS

by Rhoda U. Bandler
(Associate Member, Hdq.)

Yesterday's heroes, we're veterans, now,
Recalling our exploits with pride
Enjoying the freedom we fought to endow
Still mourning the comrades who died.

Yesterday's heroes, though pushing our
prime,
We are certain of where we belong
The world will remember with passage of
time
That we helped keep America strong.

As yesterday's heroes, we veterans ask,
In the name of the deeds we have done
That you who succeed us will finish our
task:

There is permanent peace to be won.

And so, still within the promised 60 minute time frame, we resumed our dancing, delighted with the music, and the aura of affection and pride in each other which filled the air.

Sunday, we said as many goodbyes as we could, wishing each other good health and good fortune. Watching all this, participating in all this, we felt, again, such strong feeling is . . . AWESOME!!!! Till, next year . . .

2AD Headquarters WACS Troop in for 38th Annual Convention

by Eleanor Storms

Every 2nd Air Division Convention leaves behind its own distinctive impressions and memories. The past 38th McAfee, New Jersey Convention left we WACS with a clearer vision and understanding of the inner workings and aims of the Association. The WACS congratulate the past President J. Fred Thomas and his staff for consistently adhering to their 1984-85 policy to let the Association's information flow from the Executive level down to the members-at-large. The results showed at every meeting. Their success opens the doorway for further cooperation among its members.



Enjoying the Banquet

Seated L to R — Yetta Gottlieb, Florence Stafinsky Pollner, June and Joe Whittaker.
Standing — Dorothy Reim Krogmann, and Miriam Finkel Zelin.

Fourteen Headquarter WACS were able to locate the elusive Americana Hotel enclosed in a gorgeous, scenic area. They were able to view for themselves the progress made by the 2nd Air Division Association — much of which will be reported in other written articles. But they agree that the improvements made in the meetings were needed. Those present were: Ever faithful Evelyn Cohen and Hathy Veynar, "mothering" all of the members present. Dorothy Reim Krogmann (NY) who may have interesting news for we WACS at a later date, Earline Embrey (MS), Harriet Fau (FL), Lida Cowan Thompson (IN), Rose Halloran Berwaldt (NJ), Marilyn Fritz Hughes (CA), missing the company of Valerie Brinegar Conroy, Hilda Berry Sanford (CT), Mattie Kirkpatrick Reinhardt (OR) and a close neighbor, myself, from Washington; a trio of WACS who we had not seen in many a year arrived to complete our group — Yetta Gottlieb (NJ), Miriam Finkel (NJ) and Florence Stafinsky Pollner (NY).

Long before departing for the convention I was notified by some of our WACS that they could not attend this year's convention but sent along their best wishes to all for a very successful gathering — and that we had! We also were notified, just prior to coming, of those who at the last moment could not attend due to various compelling reasons — Headquarters Vice President Associate, Mary F. Williams Elder, Vara Christian Kubly, Gertrude Werndli, Lillian Meadow Moore and Bertha Dahm.

On Thursday, the opening day of the convention, due to late arrivals of several of the WACS, some of the scheduled plans for the early afternoon were cancelled. However, the WAC day room was put into use from early morning until evening. In the afternoon, Headquarters members were invited, via the bulletin board notice, to visit us. They came at different times to chat and get acquainted. The WAC albums recalled many events of the past for some of them and many enjoyed the album on the Palm Springs Convention (1984).

We were especially delighted in the manner in which Headquarters Vice President Jim Reeves conducted the Mini-Reunion after-dinner program. Due to transportation difficulties from the Newark airport, Mattie K. Reinhardt arrived midway at dinner and just in time for her to receive a resounding 80th birthday song and cheer. And it was at this gathering that in spite of Mary F. Elder's absence, that she was voted in to be the new Headquarters Vice President. We offer her our congratulations and wish her much success in the future.

On Friday, the WAC troop boarded the long caravan of buses to attend the Memorial Service at West Point. The service was held in the U.S. Military Academy Cadet Chapel. One of the beginning speakers noted that it had been ten years since such a large group had filled the chapel. It was truly a moving, impressive service honoring those West Point graduates who had served with the 2nd Air Division.

After this ceremony, we again boarded the buses to tour West Point. Our bus guide, who happened to be a teacher had just finished teaching cadet classes all day. She left us with a vivid memory of the historical presence of this Academy. The tour ended at the picnic grounds. This is where we found Hilda Berry Sanford (CT) — another, who served with the WACS in England, and who we had not seen in many, many years.

A Convention isn't a convention without a WAC session in Evelyn's room. Two hours passed away on Saturday as memories and many regaling stories flowed. It was a relaxing session and a special time for all of us.

Jordan Uttal, MC'd the gala event and prepared the groups for the moving Candlelight ceremony. Our own Lida Cowan Thompson was chosen and honored to be present with others at this ceremony. She stated that "This event holds a very personal meaning for me for it honors my own husband on this very particular day."



Some of the WACS relaxing in Evelyn Cohen's suite.

Harriet Fau next to Evelyn Cohen. Seated L to R — Mattie K. Reinhardt, Earline Embrey, Lida C. Thompson, Hathy Veynar.

A new innovation, dancing while dining, was an enjoyable experience for all — some of us just watching the dancers, singing and listening to tunes that meant a lot to us in the '40's. The great Headquarters news that came out of the after-dinner program was that Headquarters Jim Reeves had been elected to be Vice President on the Executive Board. We all congratulate him and wish him well in his new responsible position. The banquet was a good ending to a very fulfilling convention at McAfee!

BUNGAY BULL

446th BOMB GROUP
by
William F. Davenport



Time certainly flies as the old saying goes. Here we are three months later since I sat down to inform you of the happenings that have come my way.

We are in a membership explosion as the Membership Chairman so aptly put it in New Jersey. We have added a total of 34 new members to the 446th roll in the past three months. The mailing list contains 236 Second AD non-members.

In September, 120 or thereabouts, 446th members and spouses plus children met in McAfee, New Jersey for our annual reunion. Several actions were taken at our group business meeting that I am sure you will be happy to know about:

Funds were allocated from our Memorial Fund to: A. Refurbish the St. Mary Flixton gate. As you recall this is the memorial to which many of you contributed in 1945 as a tribute to our members of the Roll of Honor. B. To provide for a 446th Bomb Group Memorial at Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum in Dayton, Ohio. I have been recently informed by Paul Wermuth that he and Jim Longstreth have selected the site together with the Museum Director and are moving out to have everything ready for a Dedication Service July 8, 1986.

In addition to the above Memorial items, it was decided to form the 446th Bomb Group organization to enable more services to be provided to our people than is possible through the Second Air Division Association. The hat was passed and sufficient funds were raised to permit the funding of other activities, such as a mailing to all members in Kansas and the surrounding states advising them of the 446th reunion to be held in connection with the 8th AFHS meeting in Wichita.

We have recently received a list of 392 names which represent the 446th Roll of Honor. Few people who have reviewed this list have not found names they thought should be listed. It is planned to mail this list together with our first newsletter sometime around December to all the 800 people on our mailing list. It is important that we have listed on the Roll of Honor our friends who qualify, time is slipping away to leave behind our history.

The 446th continues to serve our nation, having participated in the Grenada action as well as receiving the following awards: Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards: 1 Dec. 1967 - 10 Jan. 1972; 1 July 1973 - 30 June 1974 and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with Palm 1 April 1966 - 29 June 1971.

The 446th is today equipped with C-141 Starlifters and is known as the 446th MAW (Military Airlift Wing) Associate. The 446th is an Air Force Reserve organiza-

tion of 2700 men and women who serve with their active duty counterparts at McChord AFB, Tacoma, Washington. All the units with the exception of an aerial port squadron at Portland International Airport and two aerial port squadrons based at Hill AFB, Utah are stationed at McChord with the 62nd MAW.

Our contact with the 446th MAW is Vernon J. "Ben" Howser M.Sgt. who very kindly furnished approximately 60 copies of the 446th history covering the period from 20 March 1943 to the present. Ben is not only a unit historian, he is a B-24 buff because of our group lineage. Also an old airplane fan as well as a real outdoorsman. He told me last week of hiking into the site of a crashed B-23 in Idaho. That is not a mistake B-Twenty-Three. He said it resembled a DC-3 and was apparently built by Douglas.

They are in the process of establishing a museum at McChord and are currently negotiating for a C-124 for restoration. They also have in their inventory a B-24 Tail Turret and hopefully can get an airplane to go with it. I intend to visit McChord hopefully in early November and get a better feel for the museum and historical work that is being done by these dedicated descendants of the Bungay Buckeroos. So don't dispose of any of those keepsakes until I can report back to you.

You guys with long memories will remember that the "Saga of the Floundering 446th" was published in the September *Journal*. This has created all sorts of comments. I must tell you I had never heard of this song until I visited John Archer in March. Also part of my excuse is that I represent the middle part of the Bungay Buckeroos history and was not a member of the original crews or present at the end. I was never offered the 446th History.

Well, anyway John Archer let me have a copy of the saga and as happens quite often, another copy came to me from Bill Reiss along with a 5 page history, undated but classified as Restricted which goes to the time Col. Crawford was reported MIA and Schmidt took over. This copy also has the title 'Floundering 446th'. I know this is a long story, but your old Leader wants to remove any blame that may be placed upon him. Why, because I have been hit with letters of good-natured criticism. To quote from Howie Horton's letter: "Read your 'Bungay Bull' column and was dismayed at the bastard rendition of 'The Saga of the 446th'. Someone certainly took their literary license, if you call it that, with the original. We were never the 'Floundering 446th'."

He goes on: "I was well acquainted with the authors, Talliaferro and Bill Hocken-

smith, particularly Bill, with his bluegrass guitar and 'white lightning' voice. We were a captive audience on nights in Belem and Natal, with Bill trying to compose some epic, grass roots ballad which would be remembered for years to come. When Bill and Talliaferro got together, along with Talliaferro's Aldo Ray voice, it was enough to make dogs howl, and cats jump in the water. Howie you ain't no music lover to say Talliaferro's voice was like Aldo Ray's. In most peoples' opinion it was strictly Gravel Gertie."

Well, I also heard from Alton Melton who was the engineer on the 706th's "Dry Run" who writes as follows: "I don't believe any of the original group thought of themselves as floundering. I think some one tampered with the original lyrics. At least, the way I remember them. I say that, because I was one of the musicians present the night we first did that song for Col. Brogger. Doc Congdon, Talliaferro, Hockensmith and I were present. I played the steel guitar and either Major Talliaferro or Lieutenant Hockensmith played a mandolin with the other playing a rhythm guitar so we had a three piece band. Colonel Brogger really got a bang out of that song.

In addition Alton has agreed to make a cassette tape of the way he remembers the song and send it to me. If there is enough interest perhaps we can get these to those interested.

Alton also recommends highly a book "Thunderbolt" by Major Robert Johnson, 56th FG, 2nd AD. Johnson was the speaker at last March's Southern California Second Air Division Reunion. This book recommendation reminded me that I also would like to recommend "Good-bye Mickey Mouse" by Len Deighton. This is about a fighter squadron but the characters in the book also served with me at Bungay or at least their twins. His description of Eastern England is as follows:

"East Anglia is the lost continent of Greater Britain. Windy and rainy, it is not a part of the industrialized north, nor of the more prosperous South. This is a fenland, some of it below sea level, drained by elaborate dykes, and ditches built by Dutchmen whose names can still be found in every local telephone directory. No great motorway networks serve this part of England and grass grows through the train tracks. Here are endless fields of potatoes and peas, ducks and turkeys — all the bounty of the freezer — with rain swept holiday trailers huddled together as if sheltering from the elements. Its horizons are little changed since medieval times, the blunt towers of its flint churches buttressing the turbulent clouds. And yet a short walk off the roadway in almost any direction will bring you to derelict control towers, ruined operations blocks and cracked hardstands. For long, long ago this was 'Little America'. From here the great bomber fleets went out to attack Hitler's Germany, and young men from Tacoma to Tallahassee call these East Anglian villages home."

392nd BG Report

by Fred Thomas

Oct. 10 . . . Looking ahead, by time the you read this the holidays will be upon us again, so although it is early now, we sincerely wish you all a most enjoyable season and all good things in the New Year.

Now, looking backward a bit, and as will be reported by numerous others, another very successful Division reunion was enjoyed by approximately 1,000 of our people at McAfee, NJ and West Point, NY September 5-8. Our 392nd Bomb Group was well represented. We had members from across the US; those who are with us every year, some attending after missing one or more reunions, and eight couples attending their first reunion. While other duties prevented us from being with our 392nd Bomb Group members as much as we would have liked, we hope everyone enjoyed the event as we did. It gave us a great deal of pleasure to again see our friends of years past, as well as meeting a number for the first time.

One week later, we found ourselves at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio to join in the ceremonies arranged and produced by Bob Lane to dedicate a plot,



plaque, and tree in the memory of all who served with the 392nd Bomb Group in WWII . . . regardless of whether they are members of any Association or Society. We had the decided pleasure of being in the company of old friends and the opportunity of meeting a number of our 392nd BG members whose names we have known over the years, but whom we had never been able to meet.

We always get in trouble when we mention names, as we omit someone who should be named, but for example, our 579th Squadron CO, Myron Keilman, gave up a part of his jealously guarded Montana summer vacation to be with us; Bob Vickers came from Albuquerque, Gil Bambauer from Tucson, Lawrence G. Gilbert from Winter Park, FL; Willis Miller and Jack Crane came from our Orange County, CA area to meet with others from their crew and be with us. In addition, we were personally pleased to have our crew's Co-Pilot and Bombardier, Don Whitford and Dick Hyre and their wives with us. We hadn't seen Dick in over 25 years. Of course, John Conrad, who was one of the earliest proponents of the whole program, was with us. Despite our faulty memory, and apologizing for not having a list of all

those attending, we thank you all for being there. Our entire Group can take pride in having the memorial, and we are indebted to all who contributed, and to Bob Lane, whose efforts made our memorial program a success. Bob has written a separate report of our ceremonies for the *Journal*.

Shortly before our McAfee reunion, we ross checked our various rosters and made a large mailing to those who were not members of the Second Air Division Association. We are pleased to report that quite a number of those to whom we wrote are now members of our Association, and we welcome: John J. Frey, Robert G. Harned, B. Ray Shaw, Curtis B. Haukom, and Lee Roy V. DeHoff who have reinstated, and new members: Delmar C. Johnson, John H. Kedenburg, David A. Greene, James M. Buzick, Gerald E. Douglass, Harold S. Erbe, Carroll F. Flewelling, Lester J. Frazier, James Harz, Arthur H. Jensen, Thomas G. Kirkwood, Jr., John J. Kolodziejewski, Irving Kreisman, Claude H. McConnell, Gordon C. Macan, Robert C. Martin, Jr., Leo Ruvolis, David A. Scott, Carwin A. Thomason, John W. Bell, Jan Brown, William X. Davis, John W. Detrick, William H. Ranta, Clyde E. Reece, William H. Richards, Robert J. Saler, Edward C. Shapley, George E. Whitlock, Robert D. Copp, Henry M. Propper, Jack O. Stewart, Dr. G. C. McCarthy, Charles E. Dye, Sandra Healey, George A. Hoffman, Robert A. Niederriter, and Merlyn W. Norby. A number of these members have sent names of their crew members and we are sending application blanks for membership to them.

Welcome, and we hope you will enjoy our Association as we do, and we invite you to become active in our 392nd BG and Division affairs. Since we were successful in having these new members join us, and other Groups were finding more new members, our scheduled new roster was delayed to include them. Perhaps you will have the new roster by the time you read this.

Now we bring a matter before you which we hope you will give your attention. As some of you who are members of the 8th Air Force Historical Society have read in a letter from Gil Bambauer, a number of our members propose to form a 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association . . . a non-profit organization aside from either the Second Air Division Association or the 8th AFHS; an organization with its by-laws, a full staff of officers, and its own newsletter. This proposal was discussed by several of our company at Dayton and will be discussed by our members at Wichita when the 8th AFHS is holding its annual reunion October 17-19.

As you know, we have written a number of articles in the past which pointed out the mutual rewards to be had and the reasons we should make our Division Association our first concern lest we weaken and defeat our long range program of memorializing our Division's dead, its part

in WWII, and the passing of that story on to future generations. We have said our Groups fought as a Division and that our Groups should continue their pursuits as a Division, taking care that we are not splintered by separate and independent actions by our various Groups. On the other hand, although our present duties will not give us the time to be active, we can and will support a 392nd Bomb Group Association which will promote greater interest and camaraderie within our Group's membership, as long as that organization doesn't detract from our Division's program.

Those in the forefront of organizing the proposed association assure us that such detracting will not be the case, and we know these gentlemen to be men of integrity, so at this point we aren't concerned, and we will support them in bringing a 392nd Bomb Group Association into being. Lawrence G. Gilbert, et al are in the process of obtaining the non-profit status and obtaining the non-profit postage permit. The future of the matter will be up to the desires of our general membership. We would point out further that a newsletter of our own, if composed of interesting and worthwhile material, would be of help in telling the story of the 392nd Bomb Group, in addition to that published in our *Division Journal*.

Also, having a staff of officers should take some of the load off our Group Vice President and the representative of the 8th AFHS when it comes to matters concerning our Group, especially when financial help is needed to complete some project desired by our membership. Our Division Executive Committee, of which we are a member, has ruled on numerous occasions that each Group must raise and control its own funds when matters are the concern of the Group and are not Division business. A formal 392nd Bomb Group Association could take care of such situations.

Such an organization would not come about free of costs. It would require contributions from a number of us to get it off the ground, and then a membership fee would be needed to keep it flying. A \$5.00 annual fee has been suggested for those who would like to have such an association. We would like your thoughts, pro or con, on the above proposals. You can either write us at our address, or you can write those who are leading the program in care of: Lawrence G. Gilbert, 1482 Granville Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789. Further actions will be governed by the desires expressed by our members. Our concern is the camaraderie we wish to reestablish throughout our Division, and the success of our Division program with our Norwich Memorial as its nucleus. We will continue to believe the 392nd BG should be a leader in that long range plan. We will have further in the March issue of the *Journal*.

458th BG Report

by Rick Rokicki (489th)

And so, another reunion goes into the history books. Ceil and I have attended all since joining the Association in 1974, by the Lord's grace. As usual, about 75% are "repeat customers" every year. That tells me that they also see something worthwhile and beneficial in attending and renewing old friendships. My point here



Lou and Eleanor Freiberg and Lillian and Joe Linsk at 458th Banquet.

is: if you've thought about making a reunion "sometime", don't continue to put it off indefinitely — DO IT! Frankly, I consider the annual reunion a highlight that neither of us want to miss. Try it, you'll like it. The 1986 affair will be held

389th Notes

by Lloyd E. West (389th)

In the September issue of the *Journal* two articles, one by Jim Krataska and one by John B. Maguire relate to a mission April 7, 1945 to Duneberg. I have had correspondence from Dave Powers and Carl Wirges who were on the same mission and they claim the target was Neumunster not Duneberg. Carl Wirges has sent me a copy of his lead crew commendation from General Arnold for that mission. If any one has anything else that might help to clear up this discrepancy let Dave Powers, Carl Wirges or myself know.

In this case two stories have brought out questions that other experiences were able to answer. When we hear stories at the reunion we know they are out there so put them down and send them to William Robertie. Some correspondence I receive leads to members locating a long lost buddy and providing us names.

Our reunion at the Americana Resort, McAfee, N.J. September 5th thru 8 was very good with 72 members and spouses of the 389th in attendance. And we had 8 first timers and their spouses and from their comment to me they enjoyed the reunion very much.

near Chicago. Look for details.

Sincerely appreciate your confidence by reelecting me to another term as your Group V.P. I shall continue to work to make the 458th among the leaders in membership in the Association. Officially, we had 416 listed at reunion time. As of Oct. 1, we stand at 434, the highest we've ever been. Thanks to several of you who have passed me names and current addresses, we continue to grow. Once more, even though you may have done it before, send me the name of someone you know is eligible to join, but hasn't so far. We've set a lofty goal of 500 members by the next reunion, and appreciate all the help you can give to accomplish this. Many thanks to Don Jameson, Claude McConnel, Durwood Trivette, Herm Mandel and Ed Robbins who helped me 'recruit' some of the last dozen members. Bill Cunningham of Fresno, Calif. located "Tommy" Thompson, Lester Martin's co-pilot at the time of the "Mid-Air Over Cromer" (March '85 *Journal*). Needless to say a telephone conversation came about after I exchanged their telephone numbers.

My plan in 1986 is to document all new members in this column. They will have missed the deadline established for inclusion in the new Roster. In this way, those of you who are interested in doing so, can keep your personal roster up to date. I will include the name of the 458th member who sent me the name with the idea that some sort of an award can be made to the one who contributes the most as a

The highlight of the reunion for many was the memorial service held at the Academy Chapel, West Point, N.Y., after which a Dutch lunch was served at the Academy field house with a tour of the Academy facilities and grounds. A very beautiful setting on the banks of the Hudson River.

I am pleased to report to the members of the 389th that I was reelected your Vice President for another year. And if you wish to get in touch with me, my address is in the list of officers of the 2nd Air Div. Assoc. *Journal*. I welcome any letters and calls. To aid me in the work involved with being your V.P. I asked those at the reunion to select an Assistant V.P. and Frank Vadas, 1026 S. 9th St., Allentown, Pa. 18103 was elected. I speak for him when I say feel free to call or write him anytime.

Knowing that you will see it mentioned other places in this issue of the *Journal* I want all members of the 389th to know that the next reunion will be at the Pheasant Run Resort, St. Charles, Ill. and will be July 10 thru 13, 1986. Watch for official announcement and reservation form in future *Journals*. The plans are tentative that the Association will be returning to Norwich, England for the 40th reunion. Check for further announcement in this issue of the *Journal*.

"recruiter". More on this later, but send me those eligible names. The "contest" is on as of right now!



Rick and Ceil Rokicki at Banquet. Rick was again reelected 458th Vice-President.

Just finished a response to a letter I received from a Walter Hassenpflug from West Germany. Herr Hassenpflug is currently working on documentation of events that include aerial warfare in the Bad Hersfeld District. Fortunately, I had most of the information he requested except a photo of the flight crew and of the aircraft. The mission date was Feb. 22, 1945. Target was Piene Hildesheim, aircraft #42-51215, 752nd Sqdn. I found that the aircraft sustained a direct hit by AA and there were no survivors. If anyone can help, please drop me a line and I will put you in touch with Herr Hassenpflug.

HELP — Did any of you know or fly with this airman, a member of the 389th B.G. stationed at Hethel during WW II. His name was René G. Van De Voorde and is listed in the 389th "Roll of Honor". If known please contact René G. Van De Voorde, 1327 N. Central Ave. P.O. Box 308, Sebastian, Fla. 32958-0308.

REMINDER — I wish to remind all 389th B.G. members of a request for a donation so that your group can complete its part of the 2nd Bomb Wing, 2nd Air Div. 8th AAF Memorial at the Air Force Museum, Dayton, Ohio. A letter was mailed to each of you earlier with details of our request. We appreciate very much your help in completing the memorial. Send all donations to Frank Vadas, 1026 S. 9th St., Allentown, Pa. 18103 as he is the appointed treasurer of this fund. We hope to report back to you in the near future the completion of the memorial.

There are several members who are spending a great deal of time in locating and contacting former airman and ground crew that served with 389th during WW II. As a result of these efforts it was reported at the board meeting at Great Gorge that the 389th had the largest paid membership as of 9-1-85 which is 512 members.

The Six Annual Golf Tournament

by Pete Henry (44th B.G.)

The Sixth Annual Golf Tournament of the Second Air Division Association was held at the Americana Great Gorge Resort Hotel in McAfee, N.J. on Thursday morning, 5 Sept. 85. Fifty-four men and three ladies participated and eight won prizes as follows:

NAME	EVENT	AWARD
Arthur Cromarty	Low Gross—Mens Handicap	2ADA Plaque
Harry Kelleher	Low Net—Mens Handicap	2ADA Plaque
Donald Fraser	First Place—Mens Callaway	2ADA Plaque
Bob Lane	Closest to Pin—Quarry Side	Golf Cap
Otey Berkeley	Closest to Pin—Lake Side	Golf Cap
Chuck Walker	Longest Drive—Quarry	Golf Visor
Gil Magaziner	Longest Drive—Lake	Golf Visor
Paul Hood	Honest Golfer	Golf Ball Dog*

*Donated by 448th Bomb Group



FOUR OF THE 57 GOLFERS AT McAFEE
George Washburn, 44th BG, Bert Carlberg, 44th BG
Pete Henry, 44th BG, Bob Wagner, 466 BG

We regret that there were only three ladies in the group and that there was no event or award for any of them. We need at least four ladies to hold an event for them and hope to see more of you at next years reunion.

I would like to thank Rick Rokicki (458th BG) again this year for the beautiful plaques he provided. They were the greatest, Rick.

The Golf Tournament next year will be held at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles, Ill. (30 miles West of Chicago), 10 July 86. More details will be found in the March *Journal*.

2 ADA Film Library

The demand for VCR tapes I through V has been very heavy and there have been as many as eight people waiting for one tape. If you consider the average turn-around time is two weeks, that means at least a two month wait for the last person. We hope that you will understand the delay and we will handle each request in the order that it is received. Please be sure to insure *each* tape for \$50.00 before you pass it on or return it to me.

Pete Henry (44th BG)

HELP!

With the transition from First Class mail to Third Class the Post Office has buried me with forwarding addresses and returns.

PLEASE

When you change address, even if it's only for a few months to warmer climes, please notify me immediately.

Forwarding or returning a piece of mail is both time consuming and EXPENSIVE. Please give me a helping hand.

EVELYN COHEN

Headquarters Report

by Mary Frances Elder (Hdq.)

I can't begin to tell you how honored I feel to have been elected as your Vice President for the next year. It has been interesting working with Jim Reeves. I have written nearly a hundred letters to various newspapers asking them to insert a notice about the 2nd Air Division Association. I did twenty-five just in North Carolina and have had at least twenty-five replies — unfortunately, none from Headquarters people. I have sent them on to the various Vice Presidents of the Groups and hope they will result in new members. Hopefully the letters I sent out not long ago will have as good, or better results, and maybe even some Headquarters personnel will write.

If any of you have any old Rosters and/or orders which give addresses, I will be glad to contact the newspapers in that area and see if we can't contact some more of our folks.

I am delighted to have John Sanders working with me. He can seek membership in the Big State of Texas and also the Western States.

Again, let me thank you for the privilege of being your Vice President. I will do my very best to follow in Jim Reeve's footsteps (although they're pretty big) and serve you in any way I can.

I wish to encourage all Headquarters Personnel to send their \$50.00 deposit to Evelyn for our Reunion in Norwich in '87. At McAfee she announced that this deposit must be in by December 1985. Reunion dates for Norwich: May 21-25, 1987.

Mission to San Francisco

by Charlie Freudenthal (489th)

This wasn't, of course, the first crew reunion ever, nor will it be the last, but you will never convince eight men, and their wives, and two Sharon Ds that it was not the greatest thing ever. Never.

It was the war, of course. People who work for General Electric, or General Motors, say, for 20 years and then go their separate ways don't have reunions like this. But this is a bomber crew, and though they spent less than a year as a unit, they are forever joined together by the cement of tar paper shacks, and C and K rations, weeks and months of training; and a combat tour. Thirty-three times out and back, wondering each inky English morning "Where today?" and after each safe return — well, "Hot Damn, one less to go!"



L to R, front: Burdette King, Carl Wild, Jimmy Mahan. Rear: Dick Ives, Johnny Bowman, Ralph Gosa, Dave Glick, Fred Hilliard, Frank Brennan was unable to be there. Benny Brown died in 1984.

Back in early 1944, when the 489th got its fly-aways, the Group Deputy CO, Lt. Col. Leon Vance, named his the "Sharon D." for his three-year old daughter. About the middle of June, Ralph Gosa and crew,

Reunion 1987

May 21-25
Norwich, England
Non-Refundable Deposits
Now Accepted
\$25.00 per person.

We will be limited to
235 rooms with a possible 50 more

NOTICE Back Copies of the 2nd AD Journal

Over the past few years, as more and more members have joined the Association, I have had many requests to reprint the early issues of the *Journal* in book form. This is now being done.

Starting with 1971 when the *Newsletter/ Journal* took its present form three volumes will be printed. 1971 through 1974; 1975 through 1979 and 1979 through 1985.

The first volume will contain 124 pages and subsequent volumes will contain more. As the Association grew in numbers, so did the *Journal* in the number of pages (now 28). All volumes will be in soft cover and postage will be included in the cost.

Cost for the first volume will be \$15.00 and this will include postage. Initially 500 copies will be printed so get your order in early. Send check or money order to, Bill Robertie, at P.O. Drawer B, Ipswich, MA 01938.

Better hurry if you want your complete copy of all the *Journals* as I don't expect 500 copies to last very long.

Publication dates: Volume 1, now; Volume 2, March 1986 and Volume 3, in June 1986.

newly assigned to the 847th Squadron, took over the plane and flew most of their missions in it. Since it always brought them safely back to Old Blighty, the crew took a great liking to their Lib; so much so that Tail Gunner Benny Brown and his wife Ruth named their first child, a daughter, Sharon D., in honor of both the plane and the colonel.

After their tour and separation from the service the crew scattered, though Co-pilot John Bowman and Navigator Dave Glick, both Californians, kept in touch. Two years ago Dave, now a 2nd ADA member, and John decided to try to locate the rest of the bunch, and to have a reunion. Six others, Frank Brennan (G), Pilot Ralph Gosa, Fred Hilliard (G), Richard Ives (B), Burdette King (RO), and Carl Wild (G), were quickly located, but Jim Mahan and Benny Brown had flat out disappeared. As Dave Glick wrote, "Jim might still be the target of a search if he hadn't by sheer coincidence contacted the VA office in San Francisco on an unrelated matter shortly before we sent an inquiry letter based on a strong suspicion that he lived in northern California." So through the VA, Mahan was found; and it was also found that he had a friend who lives only three blocks from Dave Glick's house, past which he had driven a number of times on visits to said friend!

The search for Benny was, unfortunately, too late. He had died in November 1984, but with the help of the VA office in St. Petersburg, Florida, his widow — and Sharon D. were found.

Dave had written to tell me about the search and the reunion plans; now he started looking for Col. Vance's widow and the original Sharon. Progress was slow until one day I received a phone call from a Major Jim Kiernan, who introduced himself as the husband of THE Sharon D.! It

seems they had been looking for the 489th for a long time; then one lucky day Jim spotted an announcement about the upcoming 2nd Air Division Association's reunion. Contact Evelyn Cohen it said. He did, and Evelyn passed him along to Freudenthal, who gave him Dave Glick's address and phone number. And that's how the two Sharons joined this once-in-a-lifetime weekend in San Francisco. "By the time the second day ended, our emotions were like mush. The entire affair couldn't have been better in any way," wrote Dave. "We don't think of the Sharon D crew as being anything special. It's just that so few complete crews have been accounted for and have gotten in touch."

So after the two days of wine and dining, back slapping and "Do you remembering?", they've been "stood down" to reload and rearm for the next one. But those of us who were at the McAfee reunion were pleased indeed to welcome Sharon and Jim to our mini-reunion and to have them join us on the trip to West Point, where there was a memorial service for all 2nd Air Division West Pointers who lost their lives.

And now the 489th has two complete crews (John Predgen's being the other one) and one super reunion. If you too would like to arrange one, ask Dave Glick or John Bowman how. They will offer you "blood, toil, tears and sweat" — and one hell of a weekend!

Reunion 1986

July 10-13
Pheasant Run Resort
St. Charles, Ill.
Reservation Forms and Cost —
March Journal



Bob and Irma Dubowsky (44th BG)

Wanda and Tom Laskowski (44th BG)



A couple of 8-Ball-niks
Dick Bottomley and Pete Henry



Journal Committee (ed: Didn't know we had one!) meet this past May. L to R Fanny Parker, Evelyn Cohen, Pete Henry, Low, Andy Low (in command), Lillian Cohen, Bill Robertie, Hazel Robertie and Ted Parker.



Chuck Bednarik, new 467th BG. Former All-American Unviersity, Pa. pro-footballplayer with Philadelphia Eagles and NFL Hall of Famer and Col. Albert Shower, Ret.



Freeloaders Bill Robertie and Pete Henry (L to R) enjoy Italian Cuisine at Ted Parker's Restaurant. If you want the real thing in Italian Cuisine go no further than De Maino's, 14-16 Malden St., Revere, Mass. 02151.



Peg Weiss, Carol Weiss Riches, and Charlie Weiss (93rd BG). Carol delivered a beautiful rendition of "God Save the Queen" and "The Star Spangled Banner".



Charles Freudenthal (489th BG)



"Chow Line" at We



44th BG)



Members of the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust. David Hastings, Alfred Jenner and Chairman Thomas Eaton.



Maxine and Bill Clarey



Henry



Tom Eaton, Bill Robertie, Evelyn Cohen.



Jim Reeves and Evelyn Cohen examine rings. Diamond experts!



Former All-
player with
l of Amer



Mary and Bob Wagner (466th BG), Phyllis and Ted Watson (466th BG). First reunion since Norwich in 1975, their first reunion.



Helen and Andy Low (453 BG)



"New Line" at West Point.



Goodman and Bobbie Griffith (44th BG).



Ed and Anita Goldsmith (won't list Ed's Group as he was in all of them).

CUSTOM PLAQUES

Still 2 basic models: (1) With large 8th Air Force Logo (now further enhanced with the addition of a quarter inch deep backing plate that adds depth to the plaque), and (2) the .50 cal. shells. These are of "museum quality" 1943-1944 vintage and are not always readily available. However, I do have a small supply at hand.

The Logo or Shells are mounted on solid, polished walnut plaques. All are 6½ in. wide, but lengths vary from 10, to 10½ to 11 inches long, depending on the particular configuration of your "model". Necessary information should include:

- NAME — as you would like it engraved
- RANK — if desired
- DUTY — Gunner, Pilot, Navigator, Mechanic, Crew Chief, etc.
- LOCATION — of airfield
- BOMB GROUP — and SQUADRON (or attached unit)
- DATES — from/to (month and year of E.T.O. duty)
- IF FLIGHT CREW: 1) Missions 2) Decorations 3) Any additional info you might want to add

The BASIC cost remains \$45.00 with one (1) "identifier" (B-24 or full sized pewter airman's wings). Add an additional \$5.00 for the second identifier (small 8th AF cloisonne or miniature pewter airman's wings). The B-24 will have the Group colors on the tail at no extra charge.

A full line of WWII ribbons, battle stars and oak leaf clusters is available. Silver or Bronze Star, D.F.C., Air Medal, Purple Heart, Good Conduct, American Defence (yellow), American Campaign (blue), National Defence (red), E.T.O., WWII Victory. Others on special order. All above come with brass mounts and are \$1.75 each. Battle stars and O.L.C. (bronze) are 75¢ each. Silver (denoting 5) are \$2.50 each. Can make up to 3 rows (9 ribbons) on plaques with the large 8th AF logo. Only 2 rows with shells.

Shipping charges: Using Baltimore as the shipping center, any radius extending to Chicago, \$2.50. Outside that arc, \$3.50.

Use any of the photos as a starting point. Any combination is possible, generally. If you design your own from the options shown, and it is esthetically right, I will build it. If it doesn't "look right" to me, I will suggest a change or two before making it. Overpayments will be returned and underpayments will be noted as such with the shipment. Please include your telephone number in your request to avoid possible delays. Do not hesitate to write or call (301-766-1034) if you have any questions.

Have mailed a check to Dean Moyer, 2ADA Treasurer, for \$60.00 as profits made from plaque sales. The total benefit to the Treasury has now reached \$1,622.00. Many thanks to all who have supported this program. Send your order to:

Rick Rokicki
365 Mae Road
Glen Burnie, MD 21061



Left: \$39.95 plus \$2.50 Right: \$55.45 plus \$3.00

B-24 solid pewter desk or display model available. On left, "Standard" out-of-the-box unit. On right, Customized to your request.

Large base	.....	\$3.00
Full size wings	.....	\$5.00
8th AF cloisonne (not shown)	.....	\$5.00
Large engraved plate with up to 6 lines	.....	\$4.50
Bomb Group colors on tail	.....	\$3.00
Shipping charges	.....	\$2.50
"Standard" model, Large base unit	.....	\$3.00.



B-24 and B-17 heavy cast, vinyl covered 24K gold outlined aircraft . . . \$5.00
Second Air Division key ring . . \$2.00
Postage and mailer 75¢



Old Bunchered Buddies of Old Buck

by Milt Stokes (453rd)

It is early fall here in Pennsylvania. Trees are turning pink and gold. The fall grass in the meadows is thick and luscious. It needs cutting again but I think I'll let that job go undone. We had hurricane Gloria blast through here last week. She left a trail of destruction in some parts of the Eastern Seaboard from North Carolina to Maine. Not much real damage in this locale, some trees down, roads closed and high water — we registered 6" of rain on the gauge in one flower bed. That wind had the power to blow most of the leaves off the trees but that didn't happen. Fall would have been a bust had that happened. Now perhaps the colder weather will change the colors gradually. Maybe we will have Indian Summer to ease the transition into winter.

Each of you on the roster of the 453rd received a letter on "Outreach". The target was to bring more members into the 2nd A.D.A. and also to give our members a chance to participate in that drive. Well it is going along quite smoothly. Most of our men have written to the name that was assigned to them. We have had a lot of replies, even one reply which hit me right in the bomb bays, really shook me to the wing roots. One of our members considers this job "dirty work". Really, I never thought of this as dirty work. It was a chance to write a nice, friendly letter to someone who may have been glad to hear from us. Someone who gets nothing but junk mail most of the time would appreciate hearing from an old buddy. Oh well, none of us can be right all of the time. Since then I have repaired the bomb bays, shut off all hydraulic lines that were gushing fluid, the wing main beam has been magnafluxed and passed inspection — we are ready for another mission. Hope it's a "no ball".

The convention at McAfee, New Jersey was a real success. The 453rd had 145 members and guests on hand. Evelyn Cohen tells us that was the greatest number of any of the Groups. So eat your heart out Frank DiMola and the 445th! We really can't tell you how we do it, so we won't throw down the gauntlet just yet.

Of the 145 people on hand, at least 45 of them were attending for the first time. Two men must be complimented for getting their crews out, namely Eino Alve and Lloyd Prang, who had 10 people each.

Charles "Moose" Allen gave out 453rd caps to a lot of our members but he ran short, so he promised more at the 1986 convention in Pheasant Run, Ill. Be sure to come and pick up your cap! Thanks from all of us, Moose, for the caps.

We must thank Moose Allen, Andy Low, Mike Benarcik and Glenn Tischer for the briefing presentation given to the 2nd A.D.A. The room was too small for the

members who tried to listen to the presentation. The briefing was of the May 8, 1944 mission to Brunswick, Germany. There were additions to update the presentation. Now if Jimmy Stewart wishes to take over for Moose Allen, he will have to try out for the part! You remember Moose was a stand-in for Jimmy when this briefing was first presented at the mini-reunion in Dayton, Ohio — May 1984. If we can get Walter Matthau to show up in Norwich, England in 1987, we can really plan an extravaganza. The Lido Ballroom will not be big enough. Incidentally, Walter is still on our membership roster but has not paid his dues recently. We need you Walter!

The high point of the 1985 convention was the time spent at the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. There, we toured the Academy uphill and down in the buses. Our bus couldn't make one hill so we transferred to another! There was a memorial service to our dead in the Cadet Chapel. We packed the chapel to overflowing. The details of the visit were arranged by Andy Low. We of the 453rd have only one graduate of the Academy who died in service, that was Alfred Lossen Lane, Jr. Lane died as a result of an air accident near Chanute Field on March 19, 1954. We thank you Andy Low for your part in this service and convention. We of the 453rd are justly proud of you and your life of Service. Our thanks also to J. Fred Thomas, our retiring president of the 2nd A.D.A. He served us well and conscientiously. May he find pleasure in having served.

And we get mail — lots of it! Had a call from Seymour Cohen and a card from George Runblad telling of the death of Jack Nortridge. Jack was an old original crewman. He flew with me in B-26's in Florida and South Carolina. He was transferred to B-24's on the same orders with me that sent us to Tarrant Field, Fort Worth, Texas, then to Boise, Idaho to pick up our crews. We last saw him in 1984 in Palm Springs, California. He seemed cheerful and was hopeful he could beat the Big "C". We will miss you Jack — you know we loved you.

Pat Ramm from "Old Buck" tells us that Abe Wilen visited the old field in September. This info came on a new postcard of Old Buck showing the church, Village Hall with the American Memorial Room, the Village Sign and Village Green. Note to those of you planning to go to England in 1987: Get your money in early — Ev has 51 rooms gone already!!

Dick Rollo writes a "Sorry" letter. Seems that on "Outreach" he wrote to Ernie Peralta in Anaheim, California and got no response. Thanks for your efforts Dick, we must keep trying. Dick says some people

have "shoved WWII under the rug (Neary has — sort of)". Dick was referring to our 735th Squad Bombarder, Mark Neary, 2150 Jasperway NW, Salem, OR 97304. So those of you who live in Oregon, please call Mark for us. Tell him to write Dick Rollo because Dick is not really good at writing "Sorry" letters.

Letter also from Vic Temple — Sioux City, Iowa. He got off his "Outreach" letter. No reply yet. Vic is of the opinion that all ground personnel never got the credit they deserve. He has served the last seven years as a crew chief and line chief on RB57D's. It was rough and I do believe you Vic. All of us would like to see more ground personnel showing up at conventions. Incidentally, Joe Miehle and wife and Jack Tanorra & wife showed up at McAfee, New Jersey. They were late and didn't wish to stay. I'm sorry that all we could say was plan ahead next time. Jack was an instrument specialist and Joe was a crew chief. They knew their jobs and did them well. Without such men, we never could have gotten off the ground. Now sit down and write to all your old buddies and get them out to a convention (reunion) — Please.

You will receive this *Journal* in December and Lucille & I wish you all a Happy and Merry Christmas. Remember, Christmas has a message of love and forgiveness. If we believe that, we all would live fuller, longer and more useful lives. May you and yours have a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year! And please pray for those not as fortunate as you.

May God bless you all.

Folded Wings

44th

Robert Kolliner
John D. Young, M.D.

446th

Harry Kriebel

448th

Charles T. Berrier
Brig. Gen. Hubert S. Judy, Ret.
August R. Treuting

453rd

A. M. Lacalle

466th

Denby E. Cadick

489th

George S. Millett
Lewis W. Tanner

491st

Robert J. McCollum

491st Bombardment Group

by Carl Alexanderson (491st)

Another reunion has come and gone — slipped by all too quickly. I suppose it's because there is so much anticipation prior to it for several months that those few precious days are almost anti-climactic. But not quite.

The "Ringmasters" mustered a total of 43 for this occasion. Not bad. There were about 20 of the stalwarts who make it about every get-together so that left an equal number of either new first timers or those who haven't attended for as long as a decade. It is always exciting to meet new friends, and I'd like to say here and now how much I enjoyed it and hope to see you at all the succeeding reunions.

We arrived at McAfee a day early in order to attend the executive committee meeting. Numerous reports were presented one of which covered the Audit of the 2nd AD finances. As a member of this committee Louise and I had a most enjoyable trip to Evans City Pa. back in July. Vince LaRussa, the chairman, did a most professional job while Frank DiMola of the 445th and myself contributed as best we could. One would have to search far and wide to find more gracious hosts than Dean & Deane Moyer.

It has been a most rewarding experience to have been a member of the Executive Committee this past year. The meeting in Wilmington, Delaware and the above mentioned function only reinforces my admiration for our organization.

Many facts and many questions arose at the executive committee meeting. Among them — Fact: 1986 convention, Pheasant Run, St. Charles Illinois, July 10-13. 1987 Norwich, England May 21-25. You need \$50 to reserve by December 1985. We have 5601 members and our "Roll of Honor" includes 6265 KIA.

The Mini Reunion — the trip to West Point, (notwithstanding the breakdown of the air conditioning system and the bus itself plus the fact that we were lost somewhere 16 miles north of the USMA) the cocktail hours were memorable.

The buffet was excellent, drinks copious, the evening mellow and the printed "Sing-a-long" readable. There were at least three groups of "Wandering Minstrels" who regaled the poolside with various kinds of melody. As the evening wore on we seem to have captured the fancy of an elderly gentleman on Sax and his younger counterpart on the accordian. They stayed with us to the end.

Since reporting is not my forte I am sure I have overlooked much. If you have any questions you know what to do —

write to me.

John Boren of the 853rd sends along this charming vignette of our activities in the ETO:

I remember the day we arrived at 491st Bomb Group at North Pickenham. We



arrived in Liverpool on October 30, 1944 after a 2 week cruise on the USS Paraguay and were then sent to Stone for replacement, eventually being assigned to the 491st BG. A group truck picked us up in Thetford and we got to North Pickenham late that afternoon. When we got there, all the people were standing around playing catch with a baseball, talking and every few minutes looking into the sky. A mighty strange way to run a war, we told each other.

About that time, somebody shouted, "here comes the high squadron," and a bunch of 24's thundered by preparatory to landing. Somebody else yelled "here comes the low squadron," and another batch of 24's comes by. Both squadrons landed and taxied to their hardstands and still some of the guys were standing around asking each other "where is the lead squadron?"

As it turned out the tail end squadron of the group ahead of the 491st lead squadron, dropped its bombs prematurely and seeing the heavy flak concentrated around the target area, decided I suppose that discretion is better than valor, and committed the cardinal sin of violating group

integrity. This by turning out and away before reaching the target.

This left a huge gap between the groups and we later learned that a squadron of FW-190s fell into the gap, three abreast, made three passes, and knocked down all 10 planes of the 491st lead squadron.

I had a short consultation with my crew and we decided that if this was the way the war was going to be run, it was too dangerous for us! We later became a lead crew and had 20 missions at the cessation of hostilities.

Bill Nolen responds to my call in the Sept. *Journal* with the name of his R/O — have to sign him up. Also his BTO in the ETO, Bob Dickens an old friend.

Here's Lou's shot of the "Bronx Express" — that's him, bottom row, second right. Hope you like our new Masthead. Cheers!

Change of Address

When you move please send your change of address to:

Evelyn Cohen
06-410 Delaire Ldg. Rd.
Philadelphia, PA 19114

on the form below, as soon as possible. To send the change to anyone else (Bill Robertie or Group VP) simply delays the change appearing on our records. This could mean that the next issue of the *Journal* will go to your old address and could be lost in the great jaws of the Post Office.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

name

address

group



POOP from GROUP 467

by Dave Swearingen (467th)

At the reunion of the 467th Bomb Group at McAfee, New Jersey, the Group elected Dave Swearingen its new Vice President of the Second Air Division Association. Because the 467th will be one of the three Groups in the coming year to be represented on the Executive Committee, Dave will also serve the Group and the 2nd ADA in this capacity. Jeff Gregory was elected Deputy.

Dave succeeded Jim Coffey who stepped down after two years service as Vice President; Jeff Gregory succeeded Floyd "Dick" Kingsley, after two years service.

With 58 veterans and 51 family members and friends, the Group's business meeting began with introductions: David Hastings, our Honorary Member and wife Jean, former VP's and their wives — Phillip Day and Miss Cille, Ken and Dot Darney, Vince and Gloria LaRussa, followed by Jim and Mary Mahoney, attending their first reunion in several years. Then the rest of the Group introduced themselves and family. Many told anecdotes about Al Shower, the 467th's wartime Commanding Officer. Vince LaRussa announced plans to another 300 copies of Allan Healey's history of the 467th. Phillip Day gave the Treasurer's report.

Before the report of the Nominating Committee (Day, Darney, LaRussa and myself), I expressed my appreciation to the Group for the opportunity to serve a second term. I did the very best I could.

Dave Swearingen expressed his gratitude for being selected. He will try to do a good job. He asked the Group to show their appreciation to Jim Coffey and Dick Kingsley for jobs well done. Both were grateful for the applause.

Al Shower concluded the meeting with some observations, thanked everyone for coming and said, "You can see why I love to be here with you."

Following Al, David Hastings showed slides of Rackheath as it is today, including the new Industrial Park and its dedication ceremony.

At the Saturday evening dinner dance, the 1,000+ participants seated by Groups, the 467th's own Chuck Bednarick — the famed pro-football player with the Philadelphia Eagles — was most sought after "photo opportunity" of the Association.

445th Reporting

by Frank DiMola (445th)

Our 38th annual reunion has ended in great remembering style. Old friendship has increased in greater fashion and we reacquainted ourselves with new members. Departing on Sunday morning Sept. 8th was warm and with love and of course, "We'll see you next year."

Plans are all signed for our 39th reunion to be held in St. Charles, Ill. which is just west of Chicago. Thanks for the correction, Frank Federic. Do not be left out as so many of you have been for the Americana. Please sign up early. In this issue there should be some details about our 40th reunion, to be scheduled in Norwich, England. This particular reunion is limited, so act fast.

We had a fairly good turn-out, but I thought there should have been more in attendance from the East Coast. It was interesting to find that there were many ways for our members to reach the Americana. First of all we had Mary Beth and Peter Barnard (Mass.) arrive via motorcycle, Anita and Eddie Goldsmith, (Ill.) via motor home, Dothery and John Nortavage (PA) via motor home also. The most interesting arrival was by Dave Patterson (CA) and Dave Hasting (England) who flew from London to San Francisco, CA. And both Dave's flew to New Jersey. They also made the return flight to the West Coast. No, the wives did not fly with them, they took the commercial airways to the West Coast.

There were many exciting moments to recall. Our visit to the United States Military Academy was a great sight for many of our visitors from afar. (I reside just 35 miles south of West Point). Memorial services were held in the Cadet Chapel. We

paid our respects to all the deceased members and graduates from West Point, that served in the 2nd Air Div. Assoc. From the 445th BG came Capt. Phillip A. Costain, whom I knew when I served as ground crew personnel in the 700th Bomb Sqd. Phillip was lost in the early days of our combat missions.

We had a couple of "Met for the first time" after 40 years. Charles Walker (CA) and Henry Orzechowski (RI), Floyd Walker and Eddie Patterson (Idaho). During the reunion one could see warm handshakes, as friends greeted each other.

Mary Beth (Kennedy) Barnard has undertaken the task to compose a pictorial history of the 445th BG. She needs your help by sending photos of interest and she will return all documents and photos. I would like to know how many of you would be interested in purchasing the pictorial history when it is completed?

I would like to welcome all new members as of August 1985. Frank A. Reed (TX), Ernest L. Weddel Sr. (SD), Robert H. Muller (NY), Oscar (Pat) McKeever (Ill.), Donald W. Mills (CA), Donald L. Gallant (MI), Gregory Jay Swindle (TX), Robert C. Barnes (CT), Eugene Buszta (MI), Glen E. Marsteller (Ill.), Romaine C. Quackenbush (MO), Floyd C. Oglesby (MI), Art McDermott (CA), Wallace W. Patton (TX), Thomas Florio (NY), Eugene N. Waldher (AZ), Fred C. Fenske (WI), Marion L. Mechling (CA), Ralph H. Ray (WI), Raymond Gawronski (NV), Robert L. Tresler (WY), Davis Rapoport (PA), Leon H. Sulkowski (NY), Leonard Dubinski (WI), Joseph W. Gingery (WI), Roy D. Leavitt (CA), and Rodger L. Scott (CA). Congratulations fellows. And let's hear from you. If you recognize any of the names and wish to contact them, drop me a line and I will send their home address. Our membership is increasing and my 1986 objec-

tive is to break the 400 mark. Help me and we can. A sure way is to contact your local newspaper and tell them all about us. If you need a write up, let me know.

Regarding the Tibenham Memorial, a short meeting was held at the reunion between Patterson, Hasting, Roloff and myself and nothing has been made firm. The land that the glider club is trying to purchase is still in the bidding stage. Dave Hasting, a resident in the area will be our main contact and keep us informed.

Many thanks to all of you that sent Buddy Cross and I the stamps so we can continue our mailing program.

Just a few items from my mail bag. It has been increasing and the mail carrier is really earning his pay. Keep it coming. I received many requests for information about our reunion from our long lost buddies. It was an answer from my notice that was placed in the VFW Magazine. I do hope (14 men) they will sign-up real soon. Like Pat McKeever said, "What makes me mad is to see all the fun and reminiscing I've missed by not signing up on your first notice (1980)".

Wanted — Any flying control personnel in the group, please contact Lou Dubnow, 446th BG.

It has been another successful year in the growth of the 445th in the association. I wish to say "Thanks again" for re-electing me as your group Vice President. I am encouraged by your support and help. I would like to reappoint Buddy Cross as my assistant Vice President. He will work the area west of the Mississippi and I will handle the eastern portion.

Once again, we are entering the Holy Season for all of us. Elizabeth and I would like to wish everyone A Merry Christmas, A Happy New Year and A Happy Hanukkah to all.

The 448th Speaks

by Leroy J. Engdahl (448th)

The Second Air Division Association's thirty-eighth reunion in the beautiful mountains of Northwest New Jersey went very nicely with pleasant weather for our trip to West Point for a memorial ceremony, lunch and a base tour.

The 448th had forty-nine at the mini-banquet but there were a few who visited the hotel at times during the reunion but didn't stay for the banquet.

I was especially pleased to see Robert "Bob" Ewing of Easton, Ct. We graduated from pilot training together at George Field, Ill. in the class of 43G, served in the 448th in England, different squadrons, and hadn't seen each other since the war. This is what reunions are all about. Bob brought his wife, Phyllis but they only visited a few hours.

The 448th had a few money making endeavors to raise money for the restoration project of our old WWII control tower at Seething.

George Dickinson of Somerville, New Jersey, brought a beautiful model of a Gates Leer Fan Jet with a wing span of forty inches and equipped with navigation lights and engine which he donated for this purpose.

George DuPont came up with a clever idea in auctioning off the plane. He called it a "Chinese Auction". He started off the bidding at \$50.00 and each subsequent bid was an additional \$5.00 with the winner only paying \$5.00 for each of his bids. This brought in \$235.00 and the winner was John Keller of Pleasantville, N.J. attending his very first reunion.

We also sold 448th caps we had left from our Shreveport reunion, beautiful prints painted and donated by Bob Harper of Crescent City, California; 448th Group insignia patches that yours truly just got (they are \$5.00 each + postage), also several mementos consisting of B-24 tie tacs, ladies charms, ear rings, etc., bringing in \$630.00.

We voted to give Paul Homan who lives at Wauseon, Ohio \$100.00 expense money for going to Dayton, Ohio later this year to look over hotel sites, make recommendations for our Memorial site at Wright-Patterson Air Force Museum, etc.

Checks totaling \$530.00 were sent to Ralph Whitehead in England for the Tower restoration with another \$100.00 from orders waiting for me when I arrived home.

We also had checks of \$195.00 deposited in our "448th Bomb Group Association" account for the Dayton memorial for next July following the 2nd A.D. reunion at Pheasant Run, Ill. We now have \$1575.00 in the Dayton Memorial account and need a minimum of \$2,000.00 to purchase our bronze plaque which will be anchored in a concrete base according to specifications set by the Air Force Museum along with

the planting of a four inch trunk oak tree as a living memorial for the 400 confirmed "killed in action" from our 448th Bomb Group during WWII. This number is a recent change from the 350 we had originally and will be used in our bronze at Dayton.

We had such a great time at our first group reunion (stateside) at Bossier City-Barksdale AFB, Louisiana that many people wanted another soon so Dayton was selected for two reasons.

First, we had planned for some time for a state-side memorial to honor our comrades who lost their lives during WWII. The Air Force Museum is the largest of its kind in the world and literally millions of people visit it annually so our memorial will be seen by perhaps millions in the future.

Secondly, since the Second Air Division is having their reunion near Chicago on the dates July 10 thru July 13th it was felt that leaving a day and a half for travel from Chicago to Dayton would allow those who are driving to Chicago (Pheasant Run) ample time to arrive at our hotel in Dayton and to register and check in, etc. for our informal banquet Monday night July 14th.

From the letters I have received and the word passed to me we will have even greater attendance at this reunion than we had at Shreveport-Bossier City where we had 121.

We are planning the same format as we had at Shreveport. On the second day — a showing of the two hour VCR of the 448th D-Day Memorial visit back at Seething in June, 1984. Then lunch and afternoon Air Force movies and some cassette tapes of messages to and from England and an evening on your own.

On the third day, it is hoped after our

possible. This is very important as the number we have effects our hotel rates, etc.

Most or I should say many of you heard of the passing of our dear friend, Mini Whitehead, who was so instrumental in the Tower restoration project along with her husband, Ralph. We who knew her will surely miss her and wish for Ralph all the best as he now pursues this task without her.

We, like other groups, continually lose our members to the inevitable call by our Master. We have lost several this year and as I find this out I send on behalf of our group a letter and card of condolence to the widow to let them know we care.

We need the help of all our members to grow our membership. I have a membership roster of our paid members of our group updated through July, 1985. I sell these for \$1.00 plus stamp to cover cost. By checking the roster you can tell who is a member then send me any names and addresses (current with zip) you have and I'll send an application for membership along with a photo-copied letter of info about the 2nd A.D. and the 448th Bomb Group Association. I need your help badly in this regard.

Remember, if you wish to be part in either or both memorials, for the Seething Control Tower make out your check to "Ralph Whitehead" and mark your tax deductible check "For Seething Tower" and send to me. I will tabulate it along with others and mail to England. For the Dayton Memorial make out your check to "448th Bomb Group Association" and mark your check "For Dayton Memorial". I will deposit it in our special "checking" account.



The 448th Bomb Group's Memorial wreath at ceremony at Barksdale AFB, La., June 15, 1985.

visit to the Air Force Museum and our dedication ceremonies that we will be honored by a high ranking Air Force officer from Wright-Patterson AFB to be our banquet speaker. Also we hope to utilize Air Force personnel in our dedication ceremony as we did at Barksdale.

I need from each of you who definitely plan to be there a letter stating so that hotel and meal planning can be realistic. So please let me know just as soon as

If you wish to make a donation for the tower in memory of a person we will list that donation and the designee on a laminated parchment to be hung in the "American" Room in the restored tower. We already have three such donations, one for Mini Whitehead and one for Gen. Hubert S. Judy and another for a deceased buddy. The amount will remain confidential in all cases but these donations will be recognized. Thanks for reading.

Executive Vice President's Message

I want to thank all personnel of Headquarters for the opportunity of serving as your Vice President for the past three years. It was indeed an honor and a pleasure to work with the Presidents, Officers and Vice Presidents of all Groups of 2AD as well as the individual members. 2AD is certainly on the move and we continue to grow not only in membership but also in friendship and fellowship.

The 38th reunion at McAfee was a huge success. Evelyn did her usual great job in taking care of **everything** and **everyone**. We had a good time at our Headquarters Mini Reunion. Was good to have several of the WACS in attendance. We were also honored to have Mr. and Mrs. om Eaton with us.

We wish to congratulate Mary Frances (Williams) Elder on being elected as VP of Headquarters. She is well qualified to fill this position and we can expect her to do a great job. She will be ably assisted by: John Sanders, 5249 Zion Road, Garland, Texas 75043. John and his wife Janice have been very active in the Association for several years. John is also well qualified to handle his position.

I ask all Headquarters Personnel to give Mary Frances and John the strong support which you gave me. I can assure you that both of these people will not only be interested in the growth and welfare of Headquarters but for the entire Second Air Division Association.

I am honored to have been elected to serve as your Executive Vice President for the coming year. I deeply appreciate the confidence placed in me. I pledge to Bud Koorndyk, the Officers, Vice Presidents and Membership my 100% cooperation and support as our Association moves forward. May our membership, friendship and fellowship continue to grow.

JIM REEVES

You Were Remembered

Ladies and gentlemen, did your ears burn last week? This old English expression means, as many of you will know, that people far away were talking about you. Well they were — 3000 miles away in Calgary, Canada, where 500 men who flew the same hostile skies as you, against the same formidable enemy, were meeting for their reunion. They were airmen who became prisoners of the Third Reich, an exclusive lot because only one in eight of those shot down over there survived.

So, I am privileged to bring you greet-

Memorial Dedication

by Bob Lane (392nd B.G.)

The 392nd Bomb Group's Memorial Dedication Ceremonies at the United States Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, Ohio, Sept. 14, 1985 was a complete success. The craftsmanship on the Bronze Plaque mounted on Evening Mist Stone was magnificent along with the beautiful live oak tree planted at the head of stone and plaque.

Several Mini Reunions took place Friday evening, prior to the Dedication on Saturday.

Saturday was a full day beginning at 9 A.M. when we rendezvoused at the Museum for the Special Tour through a B-24 Liberator that was on display and made available for our 392nd Group. Our Dedication Ceremonies started at 11 A.M. and were completed around 12 Noon and this was followed with a luncheon at the Wright-Patterson Officer's Club.

After lunch we returned to the Museum for a Movie and more nostalgic observation of the many Air Force planes and equipment preserved and on display. The Museum Personnel Staff surely made us feel at home.

The Dedication Speech was given by Colonel Joseph B. Whittaker in tribute to our comrades who gave their lives and to all those who served honorably with the 392nd Bomb Group and its support organizations. It was a touching message.

The unveiling of the Memorial by Louis M. Stephens, and the presentation of the Memorial to the Air Force Museum by Colonel Lawrence G. Gilbert, with Richard E. Baughman receiving, was a moving experience for all of those present. These touching scenes, combined with Presentation of the Colors by the Base Color Guard; Rifle Salute by the Air Force Rifle Team, and Taps by the Air Force Bugler, left each of our 123 attendees with a feeling of pride and love for our 392nd comrades.

Our Group is indebted to the United States Air Force Museum and its Personnel Staff, as well as all of our comrades who contributed money, time and talent.

ings from your peers in the Royal Air Force, the Canadians, the Australians, the New Zealanders, the Poles, the Czechs, the Rhodesians, the Free French, the South Africans, yes, even the Americans, twenty of whom were there who flew in the colors of the RAF.

Your ears must indeed have burned as we opened the hangar doors and recalled what we did and what you did. As brothers-in-arms we recalled your exploits with admiration and gratitude. Admiration because we watched you from the ground as you flew through the flak and the fight-

Open Letter to the 93rd BG

by Charlie Weiss (93rd)

I can still hear the train whistle in the distance, but I was re-elected to another term as your Vice President.

The Reunion in N.J. was, as usual, a great success. Many new members were present as well as quite a few regulars. It was great to see some of you whom I hadn't seen since Hardwick. Many of you said "I'm in touch with my Navigator." "I send our radio operator a card every year." "Remember the Maintenance Chief of the Sqdns. Armory? Well I see him at our company's picnics." Etc.

Hey guys, send them one of our applications. Don't let those "lost souls" out there keep missing our fine reunions! Send me their addresses and I'll write also.

93rd BG Memorial: Come on fellows, come through with those promises I heard at the reunion. Thanks to those who have sent in your contributions. Very shortly, probably by the Spring of '86 we're going to finalize the project. Don't get left out! We plan to commemorate the Memorial at Hardwick in 1987 when we have our 2ADA Reunion in Norwich.

To all our new members and also for those of you who haven't attended a 2ADA reunion, try your best to get your activities in order, plan your vacations. If you're still working, tell your boss, "If you don't give me leave to attend the 2ADA reunion in '87, I quit!" Save your money and whatever so that we can have a good representation at the dedication. For those of you who haven't returned to the old base you have a treat coming.

While at the last reunion in N.J., I heard some very interesting stories of wartime experiences of life at, around and in the air at Hardwick. They all would make interesting reading for the *Journal*. Send them in to Bill Robertie so he can schedule their inclusion in future issues of the *Journal*.

93rd BG Roster: Don't forget to order your 93rd booklet from Glenn Fellweiler. Send him \$3.00 to cover xerox and postage. His address is in previous *Journals*.

ers, and as airmen we understood what that took in courage and devotion to duty. Gratitude because we knew it meant the end of our servitude, in my case four years.

These are just two of many reasons why I am proud to be a governor of your memorial in Norwich. Thank you for all of those reasons. And now that we know you will be coming to Norwich again in 1987 let my wish for you be the same as for our next international POW reunion in the same year — Stay out of heaven till '87.

ALFRED JENNER

Attendees—1985 Convention

Americana Hotel, McAfee, N.J.

44th Bomb Group

George & Lannie Bakanic
Charles Blatchley
Dick Bottomley
Jesse & Frances Burton
Dick & Ardith Butler/
Emily Webber
Bert Carlberg
Bill & Mary Church
Pat & Virginia Colucci
Vic Czarnecki
Bob & Irma Dubowsky
Harold & Lina Ferrara
Joe & Anne Flaherty
Griff & Bobbie Griffin
Pete Henry
Charles & Marilyn Hughes
Bob & Roberta Johnson
Tom & Helen Kay
Tom & Wanda Laskowski
Ralph & Mary Lipper
Gil & Louise Magaziner
Elwood & Betty Matter
Charles & Gladys Mercer
Bill Middlebrooks
Mel & Marilyn Murrack
Bill Newbold
Bruce & Dorothy Pauly
Bill & Norma Rand
Bill & Hazel Robertie
Ted Scarlett
Art & Scott Stanton
Bob & Alma Swank
Al & Lil Urania
Dan Valenti
George & Ruth Washburn
J.C. & Virginia Wheatley
Bob Whittington
Jack Whittle
Walt Yost
Walt Zee

93rd

John & Mary Lou Abajian
Bernie & Millie Abel
Lou & Marjorie Bargout
Joe & Margaret Bradley
Harold Burks
Nick Caruso
Guy & Doris Cheney
Leigh & Mary Claffin
Marion & Irene Cook
Mike & Mary DeBrino
Tony & Juanita DeCillis
Bill & Jo Doerner
Ray & Joan Felix
Viola & Audrey Flanary
Glenn & Alice Followeller
Ted & Jo Gourley
Herb Farrell
Bill & Mary Hanley
Don & Eileen Hanlon
Bob Harms
Bob & Pat Hill
Paul & Martha Hood
Harry & Louise Kelleher
Ed & Doreen Kromer
Fred & Betty Lakner
Floyd & Dot Mabey
Prince & Jewel Martin
Chuck & June Merrill
Hal Moore
John & Barbara Neast
Bill & Dolores Neumann
Jack & Mildred Parrish
Tom Parry
Paul & Kathryn Peloquin
Joe Roure
Charles & Inger Russell
Harold & Erma Secor
Henry Smith
Ed Spencer

Dick Stanton
Mel & Lil Staudt
Ed Stephens
Charlie & Peg Weiss/
Carol Weiss Riches
Phaon & Grace Wenrich

389th

Leonard & Dot Boisclair
Harry & Lorraine Boos
Gaynell Clark
Frank Clemens
Jim & Ava Collins
Vernon Cool
Ernie & Helen Cox
Temple & Helen Cumiskey
Charlie & June Dearing
Bill, Helene & Don Denton
Erroll & Clark Drinkwater
Ralph & Helen Fowler
Andy & Irene Friesema
Geb & Betty Gebhard
John & Louise Gillotte
Allan & Jean Hallett
Russ & June Hayes
Don & Mary Hickey
Les & Sylvia Holman
Ted & Natalie Katz
John Kendig
Jim & Joanne Kissling
Robert Klindt
Julius Klinkbeil
John & Theodora Koepper
Bud & June Koorndyk
Felix & Marjorie Leeton
Dick & Marjorie Littlefield
Tony Locorini
George Makin
Glenn & Pauline Mottice
Bill & Betty Nelson
Dick & Florence Peterson
Don Pierce
Bill & Geneva Richards
Alex & Betty Rolison
Bill & Miriam Rooney
Domenick & Frances Ruggiero
Bob Schwellinger
Stan & Mary Shobovich
Chris Smith
Frank & Grace Vadas
Art & Margaret Vaughan
Ben & Barbara Walsh
Lloyd & Clark West

392nd

Manny & Barbara Abrams
Charlie & Eleanor Bader
Vern & Hulda Baumgart
Art & Ruth Benson
Joe & Anne Bonanno
Pete & Lena Borraccini
Floyd & Roberta Bull
Patrick & Mary Burns
Bob & Bernetta Burns
Paul & Peggy Burtner
Jim & June Conley
John & Wanda Conrad
Max & Muriel Desonne
Arnold & Cleo Dovey
Herman & Bessie Mae Garner
Jim & Mary Goar
David Greene
Bob Gries
Walt & Ena Hebron
Fred & Lorraine Hollien
Ralph & LaRue Kieffer

Ray & Norma Jean Kopecky
Bob & Marilyn Lane
Larry & Claire Lassins
J.D. & Emily Long
Pat & Sarah McEvoy
Oak & Maxine Mackey
Hank & Evelyn Niman
Roland Sabourin
John & Dolores Samsell
Dick & Louise Sheppard
Bill & Thelma Singleton
Stan & Betty Stupski
Fred & Elva Thomas
Harry & Edythe Vasconcellos
Joe & Mary Westbrook
Norbert & Marian Wick
Stan & Mildred Zybort

445th

Roy & Concetta Alberghini
Baldwin Avery
Pete & Mary Beth Barnard
John & Pat Cadden
Charlie & Evelyn Cooper
Al & Dot Cwiklinski
Frank & Elizabeth DiMola
Henry & Mary Dobeck
Jim & Dot Dowling
Bob & Cass Drummond
Elmer & Jean Fischer
Ed & Anita Goldsmith
Walt Johnson
John & Marguerite Lynes
Art & Peggy McDermott
Bob Muller
John & Dot Nortavage
Henry & Veronia Orzechowski
Dave & Joan Patterson
Jim & Mayme Paul
Ed & Margaret Peterson
John & Bea Queenan
Al & Dot Querbach
Ed Roloff
Charlie & Anna Scheer
Bob & Lee Springer
Bob Tucker
John & Marie Vessels
Charlie Walker
Floyd & Virginia Walker
Bill Williams

446th

Bob & Mary Alexander
Bill Anderson
Bill Apodiakos
Howard & Evelyn Baggett
Sam & Ida Becker
Gordon & Joan Bishop
John & Alma Bittner
Ed Cairns
Sid Dailey
Bill & Jean Davenport
Irv & Marin Day
Joe & Ida Drucker
Mike Emrich
John & Kathleen Faulds
Gaetano & Gert Federici
Marv & Mary Finger
Phil & Audrey Fruchtman
Lou & Thelma Galaini
Dick Ghery
George & Leona Gigstad
Herb & Reba Gordon
Frank & Florence Grecco
Ed & Dot Hanna
Charlie Hay

Larry & Verna Heimbinder
Dick & Dot Hevener
Clarence Hooks
Harold Hull
Art Jones
John & Helen Kinney
Harold & Catherine Kunze
Charlie Lamarci
George & Gladys Leroy
Art & Elsie Livingston
Jim & Nancy Longstreth
Art Ludwig
Vince & Teri Macaluso
Bill & Jean Maisenhelder
Harold & Lil Maslyn
Tom & Kathryn Mason
Max & Shirley Minear
Harold Minnick
Bob Moore
Lou Motts
Al & Pat Moyer
Ted & Barbara Nichols
Gene & Wini Nowak
Todd & Pat Owens
Mike & Mary Paczan
Charlie & Zella Perry
Ed & Betty Reinhardt
Mitch & Nettie Reno
Bill Richards
Aud & Fern Risley
Harold & Margaret Roach
Eric & Ethel Sherman
Bob Smith
Joe & Kathryn Soder
Marv & Margaret Speidel
Jack & Arlene Stickel
Walt & Nancy Sullivan
Ray & Helen Tate
Bill & Ruth Thorpe
Walt & Juanita Toronjo
John & Esther Verdeschi
Andy & Dot Weiman
Paul & Ethel Wermuth
John & Mignon White
Calvin White
Bud Willis
Jim Wylie

448th

Stu Barr
Al & Jeanette Bishop
Julian & Winnie Blake
Audrey & Ann Cates
Dwight & Shirley Covell
John Deren
George & Hazel Dickinson
George & Laurie DuPont
George & Marguerite Elkins
Leroy Engdahl
Ben & Charlotte Everett
Paul & Mary Ellen Homan
Harold & Helen Ingebrigtsen
Gail & June Irish
Joe & Kathleen Kasacjak
John Keller
Dick & Bobbie Kennedy
Charlie McBride
Jerry & Mary Mejeur
Tom Murphy/Pat McCormick
Milt & Ruth Nichols
Julius & Victor Rebeles
Bob & Cynthia Sampson
Gene Stetz
Tom & Ellen Symonds
Art Weisz
Bob & Marguerite Williams

Chuck & Betty Yant
John & Dot Zima
Tom & Petra Taylor
Jay Young

453rd

Charlie & LaRue Allen
Eino & Edna Alve
Lyle & Lee Alverson
Bob & Evelyn Anderson
Irv Appel
John & Joan Baillie
Mel & Rosemarie Baldus
Gino & Adelaide Bartolino
Ed & Evelyn Bebenroth
Ed Becker
Mike Benarcik
Dwight & Doris Bishop
Ernie Bolduc
Ken & Virginia Stokes
Brubaker
Seymour & Anita Cohen
Ralph & Helen Colliander
Tony Corbo
Neil & Virginia Crowley
Lyman & Geneva Crumrin
Bob & Jane Cunningham
Al & June Dallmeyer
Joe & Pate Delate
Joe & Grace Donovan
Walt Edgeworth/
Marilyn Tacoma
Ralph & Phyllis Ford
Sal & Angela Giombarrese
Leonard & Donna Glover
Everett & Kathleen
Golembieski
Jim & Anastasia Halligan
Russ Harriman
Ray & Florence Hunt
Jack & Dot Jaeger
Jay & Ann Jeffries
Ray & Evelyn Jones
Bob & Betty Jordan
Bill & Helen Joyce
Joe & Kathleen Kasacjak
John & Nita Kassab
Warren & Phyllis Klein
Frank & Jean Kumor
Ed & Evelyn Limstrong
Andy & Helen Low
Dennis & June McElhinny
John & Teresa McGough
John & Genevieve McSherry
Jim MacNew
Wally Magaziner
Guy & Norma Martin
Bob & Thelma Marx
Dot Middleton
Tom Neilan
Art & Dot Noonan
Don & Mimi Olds
Charlie & Loretta Parker
Paul & Mary Lee Pfenninger
Lloyd & Irene Prang
Lee Quesnel
Herb & Bernice Reinders
George & Ruth Rich
Ira & Alice Riggs
Harold & Myra Rohmer
John & Marie Roth
Maxie & Betty Seale
Howard Shaw
Jerry & Lillian Shulman
Phil & Joan Synder
Joe & Rena Sonnenreich
Mike & Carol Spezzano
Lou Stern
Harry Stien
Milt & Lucille Stokes
Frank & Jackie Thomas
Glen & Edith Tisher

Joe & Janice Thuring
Bob & Isabelle Victor
Del & Doris Wangswick
Bill Woods
Carl & Irene Yeager

458th

Jerry Allen
Emil & Wanda Besten
Birtó & Jean Brumby
Bill & Barbara Case
Bill & Jean Clark
Frances Coleman
Marty & Rose Corlund
Charlie Domek
Dale & Virginia Dyer
Dick & Lois Fairfield
Don & Carolyn Fraser
Lou & Eleanor Freiberg
Gus Gagel
Elmo Geppelt
Amisa & Audrey Gilpatrick
Ken & Emma Gorrell
Stan & Dot Hammell
B.P. & Georgia Hebert
Bill & Maurice Jameson
Milt Jay
Oliver & Penny Johnson
Art Krueger
Norman & Pearl Lakey
Joe & Lillian Linsk
Claude McConnell
Joe & Micki McDonald
Herman & Renee Mandel
Leroy & Bev Peeler
Ed & Dot Robbins
Rick & Ceil Rokicki
Bill & Gerry Sanders
Millens Taft
Ted & Gloria Urbano
Bill & Flo Waldy
Tom & Alberta Walsh
Mort & Jean Whipple
Ed & Helma Wilcox
John Woodworth

466th

Harold & Jeanette Anderson
Joe & Irene Arbaugh

Jim & Snookie Auman
Frank & Louise Bostwick
Margaret Calderalo
Joe & Marjorie Campbell
George & Astrid Corrar
Stan Goldstein
Marian Herbst
Mike & Pauline Hoover
John & Mary Leeds
Gerry & Sammy Merket
Loe & Mildred Mower
Elwood & Lucille Nothstein
Bob & Sybil Petterson
Alan & Karen Petterson
Jim & Elinor Russell
Art & Barbara Sessa
Hank & Edie Tevelin
Larry & Roslyn Tromer
Fred & Peggy Venables
Bob & Mary Wagner
Ted & Phyllis Watson
Ben Weiner

467th

Ralph & Mary Jane Anderson
Chuck & Emma Bednarik
Ray, Lucy & Jonathon Bickel
Arch & Helen Boisselle
Bill & Emily Carrico
George & Katherine Church
Rose & Jim, Jr. Ciancitto
Jim & Joan Coffey
George & Mary Condry
Art Corn
Ken & Dot Darney
Phil & Cille Day
Tony & JoAnn DeBiasse
Roy Dettinger/Robert Myers
Bill & Vernice Dillon
Les, Josephine & Jane Dining
Howard & Anne Dye
Joe & Helen Dzenowagis
Charley Finn
Leonard & Alice Fox
Jeff & Terry Gregory
Weldon & Helen Gruver
Joe & Florence Haenn
Dale & Eileen Hamilton
Duffy & Frances Hannafey

Craig & Susan Harrington
Bill & Alice Hayes
John & Elsie Hilton
Fred & Jane Holdrege
Ed Hooten
Jim & Audrey Johnston
Andy & Anna Kapi
Sid & Beatrice Katz
Floyd & Eleanor Kingsley
Kay Lanigan
Vince & Gloria LaRussa
Joe Long
Jim & Mary Mahoney
Al & Teresa Muller
Will & Cecily Noden
Earle & Aline Page
L.T. & Ruth Piland
Floyd & Anne Pugh
Fred & Audrey Sammetinger
Fred & Marguerite Segalla
Charlie & Ruth Serwitz
Carl & Mildred Shaut
Al Shower
Oliver & Dot Simmons
Bill & Shirley Smith
Jack & Lucille Stevens
Jack & Anne Stratton
Dave & Jackie Swearingen
Allan Tucci
Art & Ada Wicks
Forrest & Jeanne Wilson

489th

Chuck & Twyla Baker
Ralph & Virginia Belward
Otey & Ruth Berkeley
Chuck & Mary Bouchard
Tom & Muriel Bouley
Bob & Alice Boyle
George & Irene Brite
John & Pat Brody
Bud & Mike Chamberlain
Don & Betty Champagne
Hap & Margaret Chandler
Bob & June Coburn
Art Crawford
Bert & Jean Crawford
Ernie Davis
Jim & Jean Davis

Bud & Viola Ellis
Don & Shirley Engler
Charlie & Helen Freudenthal
Homer & Geneva Haile
Ed Hanlon
Morgan & Ella Deane Higham
Frank & Marge Hoffman
Tony & Frances Hudzik
Roger Jamann/Joe Kramer
Sharon & Jim Kiernan
John & Pat Lamar
Arvo Lohela
Ted & Gladys Maruschak
Fred & Loretta Meyer
George & Virginia Nokes
Jim & Mary Margaret Pace
Lew Palmer
Ed & Barbara Phillips
Carl & Helen Rosendahl
Mel & Dolly Sharpe
Elmer & Doris Sherman
Frank Skeldon
Dick & Beverly Stenger
Paul & Bambi Surbaugh
R.W. & Miriam Thomas
Julius & Geraldine
Vanerwegen
Warren & Phyllis Wackford
Bill Wilkinson
Warren Wurm

491st

Carl & Louise Alexanderson
Hugh & Gloria Bennett
Ken & Jean Boyd
Mike & Margaret Brienza
Royce & Jeanette Colby
Dave & Edith Dougherty
Seymour & Hazel Eisenstat
Harold Fritzler
Henry & Harriett Gibbs
Ralph & Alice Hoehm
Ross & Vel Houston
Morris & Doris Jones
Bob & Irene King
Bill & Gloria Long
Bill McClelland
Guy & Millie McElhany
Patrick McElhany/
Norene Rodacker

John & Alice Mesarch
Wilbert Mishler
Ted & Fanny Parker
Patrick & Betty Perry
Dan & Suzanne Winston

492nd

Bill & Norma Beasley
Patrick Blanco
Bill & Maxine Clarey
Gil Green
Vernona & Bobbie Key
Harry Orthman

Hdq.

Rhoda Bandler
Howie & Jo Baum
Rose Halloran Berwaldt
Warren & Norma Burman
Evelyn & Lillian Cohen
Earline Embrey
Harriett Fau
Yetta Gottlieb
Bill & Mary Jenkins
Dorothy & Ernie Krogmann
Henry Mason
Charlie & Madeleine Mills
Dean, Deanie & Maxine Moyer
Florence Stafinsky Pollner
Jim & Edna Reeves
Mattie Reinhardt
Robbie & Helen Roberts
John & Janice Sanders
Hilda Berry Sanford
Eleanor & Bill Storms
Ray & Ruth Strong
Lida B. Cowan Thompson
Jordan & Joyce Uttal
Hathy & Milt Veynar
Joe & June Whittaker
Mae & Karen Wolf
Miriam Finkel Zelin

Board of Governors

Tom & Robin Eaton
David & Jean Hastings
Alfred & Peggy Jenner

Missives from the 492nd

by Bill Clarey (492nd)

McAfee, New Jersey, a place on the map that I had never heard of, that is, before the Second Air Division Association had its 38th Annual Reunion. I'll remember the "place" well from now on as the thought



Archie Boisselle and Jim Mahoney

of it will rekindle fond memories of the good time that we all had there, mingling with the 900 or so people that attended.

Maxine and I wish to thank the Associ-

ation for the most welcome and delicious cake that was presented to us in honor of our 39th wedding anniversary.

One of the highlights of the reunion was the visit to West Point Military Academy. In my case, it has been a lifelong desire to visit the auspicious school to see if it compared with all the descriptions and stories about West Point. It was a sight to behold.

During memorial service in the chapel, a member of the 492nd BG, Austin P. Byrne, now deceased, was named as a former graduate and also a classmate of Major General Andrew Low (Ret.).

Members of the 492nd present were Bill and Norma Beasley, A. Blanco and his guest, Bill and Maxine Clarey, Gil Green, Vern and Bobbie Key and Harry Orthman. Those not in attendance were sorely missed, however, we will be looking forward to seeing you next year in Chicago.

Another highlight of the program was

getting to meet and converse again with Jim Mahoney, former C.O. of the 859th Squadron at North Pickenham.

Al Mohny's and Archie MacIntyre's mini reunion at Clare, Michigan was well attended and received. Tapes of Tex Beneke and his "Glenn Miller" music were shown. Reports were that there was a lot of "foot stomping" during the showing.



Harry Orthman and Jim Mahoney

So now, it's off to Wichita, Kansas and then we plan to go to Hawaii for a couple of weeks. By the way, I understand that in 1988 the 2nd ADA Reunion will be there.

Letters



Dear Evelyn:

Two-fold purpose in my writing to you. First — I want to sincerely thank you for all the effort you put into that wonderful reunion in McAfee. As you know, it was the first one my wife and I attended. We were much impressed by the feeling of camaraderie and the all-out friendliness of everyone we met. We attended many conventions over the many years of my business life but none came close to the warm and friendly atmosphere which prevailed at this one.

Secondly — we spent most of our summer at a secondary address and arranged to have our mail forwarded. However, the Post Office and I apparently had a misunderstanding and they only forwarded the first class mail and disposed of everything else. This means that I did not receive the June edition of the *Journal*, nor have I yet received the September issue. If you could forward me copies I would be very pleased. If I have to write elsewhere, please advise and I will get cracking on it.

Once again — the Reunion was a rousing success from the viewpoint of this Bungay Buckeroo. And it was a pleasure to finally make your acquaintance personally.

William H. Thorpe
960 Hillside Drive
Southampton, Pa. 18966

□ □ □ □ □

Dear Evelyn:

Thanks to Edith and Dave Dougherty, I was found in August. They have been trying to locate me for several years. What a surprise to hear his voice after forty years.

Also want to thank you for including us on the trip to West Point. Am so glad Lee and I were able to attend the memorial service.

Sorry we weren't able to join you at Great Gorge but, God willing we will see you in Chicago next July. Am looking forward to it.

Franklyn Bachman

□ □ □ □ □

Dear Bill:

May we use your Letters to the Editor column to reach a lot of people?

To those wonderful people who signed those sheets telling us that we were missed at the convention in New Jersey — THANK YOU! We sure missed you, too. It really warmed our hearts to hear from all of you. We know you had a superb time. We'll see all of you in Norwich in 1987.

Roy and Mildred Jonasson

□ □ □ □ □

Dear Bill:

Much has been written about the exploits of the Fighter Aces and Combat Crew Heroes, however very little has been written about their friends in the Control Tower who "Kept 'em flying"!

Ours was not a glamorous job, and at times, it was a long, hard grind under conditions that were less than ideal. There were times, too, when it was touch and go, and no two situations were alike. We just did what we had to do, and I'm quite sure that most of us would not have traded places with the Air Crews. Nevertheless, it seems appropriate after all these years, to give some recognition to the dedicated men in the Control Tower who were always ready to help and DID help!!!

We were down at the runway talking them in when our fickle English weather decided to play tricks on us. Always on the lookout for red flares letting us know there were wounded aboard. Giving priority landing to aircraft in distress. Landing 'em with wheels up, out of fuel, shot up and other various and sundry conditions which required delicate handling.

We maintained the Airfield with regard to the safety of the planes, examining the runways after a mission and before take-off to make sure there were no cracks or potholes. Getting the Engineers to make quick repairs. Making sure that all the lights were working properly. Removing obstructions from the runways. Getting to crashed aircraft with ambulance and fire-fighting equipment. Many times we were called upon to make split-second decisions (and pray that hopefully they were the right ones!) We had to contend with rain, cold, fog, sleet and snow, in addition to our planes being shot up when trying to land!

We were on duty 24 hours a day to assist R.A.F. planes diverted to our field after night missions. We arranged transport, billeting and mess for those crews who remained overnight. We answered Darky Calls and Mayday Calls. Well, sometimes it was just one darn thing after another!!!

My hat is off to all of you fine men who worked in and around the Control Tower. Flying Control, per se, was born in the United Kingdom in WWII and at the end of the war, for all of us Flying Controllers, IT DIED THERE! Let us not let the memory of our contribution also die! I believe that we contributed our fair share towards the successful conclusion of the war and we should feel proud to have been part of Flying Control in the United Kingdom in WWII!!

"Stand up and be counted!" Be proud of your heritage and contribution! Let me know that you are one of us! "Time is running out!" Thank you. Please let me hear from you soon! It's later than you think!!!

Lou Dubnow

□ □ □ □ □

Dear Bill:

In checking thru all of my memorabilia, found a shipping order for forty gunners. Ran thru the names and checked the roster of the 458th but found only three others. They are Henry Jaber (Folded Wings, June issue), James Keel, Al Cramlett.

Somewhere there are 36 potential members for the 2nd A.D. Thought if their names were published, some other member might know for them. How can anyone not know a person by the name Cataldo "Scotty" Scatamacchia? "Scotty" was from the Bronx, New York.

FV1 — Charles E. Moss, Edward N. Valenzuela, Samuel J. Simpson, Jr., Max F. Johnson.

FV2 — Vincent O. Morreale, Frederick W. Wright, Charles M. Fowler, Edward E. Betts.

FV3 — Roy W. Thomas, Joseph B. Schroeder, Norman L. Hull, Verle C. Erickson.

FV4 — Charles E. Stenard, Jr., Clarence M. Prentice, Mitchell A. Kamonski, Robert A. Palmer.

FV5 — Albert J. Pizzica, Adolph Janowski, Karl E. Van Kuran, Jr., James P. Keel.

FV6 — Leonard E. Saltiel, John W. Smith, Harold L. Matthews, Ralph J. Beauchamp.

FV7 — Forrest B. Large, Robert H. Bauch, William A. Harris, Charles H. King.

FV8 — Daniel A. Depasquale, Oliver F. Kirkendall, Bernard Maloski, Cataldo Scatamacchia.

FV9 — William L. Case, Melvin K. Keim, Albert C. Cramlett, Jr., Truman O. Hagen.

FV10 — Raymond F. Tomlinson, Frank P. Limbert, Henry S. Jaber, George B. Brison.

Yours in good faith,

Bill Case

#1 Hillside Ct.

Parkview

Eldridge, IA 52748

319-285-4678 (home) or

319-326-7800 (office)

□ □ □ □ □

Dear Evelyn:

We certainly enjoyed the reunion and want to thank you for your special effort in arranging our accommodations. The mailing of our badges was very thoughtful of you.

Met a good friend, Chuck Walker, whom I hadn't seen in forty years and we drank the night away!

Hope to get to more of these reunions in the future and see you again, meanwhile enjoy your picture.

Henry & Veronica Orzechowski

□ □ □ □ □

Dear Evelyn:

I must tell you that after threatening to come to a reunion ever since I became a member, I was pleased I was able to make it this year.

Unfortunately, I did not meet any old friends, but was happy to make many new ones. I will attend as many future reunions as I can.

Please note address change on card enclosed.

Charles Serwitz

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Dear Bill:

Just received the September issue of the *Journal* for which I thank you. I would like to join all the others who write to you to say how much members appreciate your efforts in putting the "Lifeline" together. I am always amazed at the constant flow of material that gives so much pleasure to so many.

Somehow I seem to have missed out on the last issue (June 1985) so could you possibly still have some available?

Ed Johnson

(ed: For such kind words anything is available.)

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NOTICE

TO ALL MEMBERS —

ARKANSAS, LOUISIANA, NEW MEXICO, OKLAHOMA AND TEXAS

The third annual Dallas/Fort Worth Regional 2nd Air Division Association Dinner/Reunion will take place Saturday, 15 March, 1986. There have been members from all Groups at the past two events. Details will go out to you the first week in January, so mark your calendars now and plan to attend. (*Fighter members, we want you!!!*)

If you do not receive word by the end of January, please contact Dinner Chairman, Jeff Gregory (467th) 3110 Sheridan Drive, Garland, TX. 75041 — (214) 278-8537.

Dear Bill:

I thought the Duneberg — April 7, 1945 raid was a closed issue with the March *Newsletter*. But, with the additional two articles in the September *Newsletter*, I thought I might as well add my bit to the confusion.

When the ME-109 was inserted into our box of four aircraft, I was standing with one foot on the flight deck and one foot on the raised deck between the seats of the pilot and the co-pilot on the plane flying the slot position in the lead flight. So I had an excellent view (and no duties) of the ME-109 and its destruction of two of our aircraft.

When I was first aware of the ME-109, I saw him flying at the same elevation and at the same speed as our element of four planes. He had entered the formation from its rear. The fighter was flying to the left of the tail turret of the lead plane and therefore slightly to the left and ahead of our nose turret. The ME first would fire its guns at the lead plane and then would pull its nose up slightly. Then it would fall back into its level firing position and let off more rounds of ammunition. I have always figured the ME had armor plating on its belly and that the pilot was using this jiggling tactic so as to avail himself of the protection afforded by his armor plating. On the other hand, it may have had something to do with its speed since the ME-109 must have been close to its stalling speed.

It was amazing, considering that at least twelve 50-caliber machine guns were firing at his plane, that the German pilot was able to hold his position within our formation as long as he did, which seemed to be minutes but wasn't. At any rate, smoke then started to stream from the engine nacelle of the ME and at this point the (wounded?) German pilot must have realized that he had had it. So he accelerated his ME under the left wing of the lead plane and flipped it into the lap of its pilot.

Two things happened next. First, the

Friend Weiss: (Charlie 389th)

In answer to your letter of 8/13/85, I appreciate your interest in Tkachuk (he changed it to Tachuk) I had already found his plea in the *Liberator Letter*. I'd already written him and he had immediately called me. I could tell he was crying, this was the first he had heard of his brother in almost 42 years. He was beside himself with joy and promised to visit me this summer. Well! Friday the 8th of Sept. he called from his daughter's home in St. Louis, he and his wife had driven from Cleveland and wanted our permission to drive on down for a visit, on Sunday. Can you imagine, permission??? I would never have forgiven him if he hadn't come on down! My wife told him, on the phone, that I'd had a massive heart attack in past years and wasn't up to snuff. That shook him up, after all these years, was he too late? No way!

About 1 P.M. Sunday the 8th they drove in. The next few (far too few) hours were ones I wish everyone could experience at least once in a lifetime. It wasn't the only heart warming experience I've ever had, but it was definitely one of the greatest. That was the happiest most overjoyed man I ever saw, over forty years of searching suddenly broke loose as he embraced me, tears streaming down his cheeks. Like his brother he was a very expressive person and all his feelings showed plainly on his face. During our conversation I would happen to mention some small habit or personality trait of his brother, this would bring the warmest glow to his face, tears again welling in his eyes. Once I broke into the conversation saying, "George, even after forty years you're a ringer for your brother, both in looks and action. There's only one thing, when he talked at times there was almost a stutter to some words." With an

3-bladed prop of the ME-109 was detached from its engine and floated directly towards our plane. Luckily, it dropped out of sight before our plane ran into it. I mention this because it had stopped rotating and seemed to be suspended in the air, right in front of us.

The second action involved the engine of the ME-109. It rolled along the top of the right wing of the lead plane and dropped off its end directly onto the deputy lead plane. The German pilot must have wanted to commit suicide, else why would he have flown formation with us, presenting himself as a sitting duck? One German for 20 Americans; one ME for two B-24s.

The bomb damage was quite impressive as viewed through the left blister on the flight deck and through the open bomb bay doors. And the top turret gunner should remember my presence on this flight since I repaired his intercom (a loose wire in his plug-in junction box) and enabled him to claim an enemy plane.

However, I was impressed even more to see a German plane, without any propeller, coming down almost vertically to the right of our formation. This was the first jet aircraft I had ever seen, and it wasn't one of ours!

I had persuaded the CO to let me fly with the crew as a flight engineer that morning, although my MOS was that of Squadron Engineering Officer. After landing at Hethel, I figured that I was not getting enough (any) flight pay and therefore I would forego any more combat flying; especially after witnessing two B-24s out of four (50%) going down over enemy territory. However, the flight did give me a better outlook on what it was like to fly a mission over Germany.

Unfortunately, after some 40 years I cannot remember our plane designation nor any of the names of the crew. Perhaps someone whom I flew with that morning can tell us.

Gordon M. Baker 566th Sqd., 389 B.G.

even warmer glow, a tear trickled down his cheek, he very softly said, "You really did know my brother. The stutter was the result of a bicycle accident when a child." Other than that he looked and acted so much like his brother I felt as though I was reviving an old friendship. They were twin brothers and were very close while growing up. George had failed to make the Air Force but ended up at the Battle of the Bulge, one year after John was killed.

As I said the time passed much too fast. We begged them to stay longer but they had business to attend to. As we were saying goodbye at the door, George broke and ran to the car, I'm sure, trying to keep from crying again. With hands high above their car they waved until gone from sight, far down the street, leaving me with a great feeling that for once in my life I'd truly made someone happy. In that very short period of time I definitely feel that John and George Tkachuk were once again with each other. I could see it in George's face, the overwhelming joy, yet behind that the sadness and pain. My vote of thanks to you, the Lib. Club and the Vasquez's for bringing this meeting off. I'm eternally grateful!! I have an idea how George felt, my brother was drowned in '58.

I still need the date of the Oslo mission made after the first of the year '44. Also the name of the Col. Command Pilot on our lead plane of the second wing on the first raid on Berlin, (he was wounded over Berlin) — I know darn well I wasn't dreaming, our plane was out of control for a lifetime of seconds. I can't believe a wounded Col. was left off the records??? Seems like survivors of 1943 and early '44 missions are scarce. True???
John Mosier
403 Crane St. Flat River, Mo. 63601

Dear Hazel & Bill:

McAfee will long be remembered as one of the best times ever with the 2nd AD's. Sorry we didn't have more time together.



The enclosed picture was taken in the West Point Gym. Thought you would get a big kick out of it. Am working on a 466th story for you and the *Journal*.

Jim & Snooky Auman
(ed: Any port in a storm!)

□ □ □ □ □

Dear Bill:

I wonder if you could squeeze a few words into the next issue of the *Journal* so that Jean and I can express our sincere thanks to all the members of the 2nd Air Division Association who attended the McAfee Convention, for their great kindness, hospitality and friendship to us. As always we were delighted to be back with the "family" and to meet so many friends once more. We thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the Convention and now eagerly look forward to seeing you all at Norwich in 1987. We are indeed privileged to know such a wonderful group of people.

Jean and David Hastings

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Dear Bill:

I am researching the military career of my beloved father, René G. VanDeVoorde, who was lost on a mission of February 3, 1945, while flying with the 389th Bomb Group, part of the 2nd Air Division.

Through correspondence with Mr. Stewart Evans, I was given your name in the hope that you might possess some documents or information of any kind about my father or his missions.

Perhaps I could find someone within your organization who might have known him or of him. I would appreciate any information that you or the organization could give me.

According to Mr. Evans, my father's last mission was on February 3, 1945 over German targets in Madgeburg. The aircraft was B-24J 42-50551. I have his serial number and other information if you need it, but as to the missions with 2nd Air Division, this is all that I know.

René G. VanDeVoorde
1327 N. Central Ave.
P.O. Box 308
Sebastian, Florida 32958-0308
305-589-4353

□ □ □ □ □

Dear Bill:

My sincerest thanks to you for the extra copies of my articles, plus your very fine letter. I'm presently working on the outline of my next article and, upon its final completion, I will send it directly to you.

I caught a note in your recent letter that more or less inferred that "Rhubarbing" was a waste of time. For some unknown reason, the high command in the 8th Air Force (and this includes General Doolittle at High Wycombe Headquarters) never gave the enormity of Rhubarb raids their much-deserved recognition. Everything as far as the 8th's activities were concerned all seemed to emanate from the magnitude of daylight high-altitude precision bombing of Germany. Yet the irony of this was felt by the fighter pilots because every other month we'd be able to add up a pretty close compilation of the total overall effectiveness of Rhubarbing via a publication put out by Air Intelligence called, "Impact". Perhaps you may have had access to these very important and classified documents. They were prepared exclusively by and for the U.S.A.A.F. and covered all theatres of operation. They were intended strictly for fighter pilots and bomber crews so you no doubt were able to lay your hands on a few issues. They were not to be left lying around loose or unattended, but I happen to have a copy of every one that was ever issued, from the first through the last issue. You can readily appreciate their historic value at his point in time, I'm sure.

After we'd completed our Rhubarb raids, the photo recon boys in their E-5's would go out and shoot photographs of the extent of our destruction of the beloved Nazis. I was pleasantly surprised a few years ago when a friend of mine showed me the following excerpt on Rhubarbing which I took part in that day. "On 28 August (1944) fourteen fighter groups flew separate fighter bomber or strafing missions to Holland, Belgium, eastern France and western Germany. They dropped 83 tons of bombs and turned in claims for 22 enemy aircraft, 189 locomotives, 260 rail cars, 87 trucks, 21 street cars, 3 tank cars and 5 barges destroyed. Losses

were 19 fighters". You can find the foregoing data on page 42, paragraph 3, in the "Eighth Air Force Story" by Kenn C. Rust, published by "Historical Aviation Album", P.O. Box 33, Temple City, California 91780. I was on that raid that day, Bill, and our squadron lost four of our Mustangs over France at virtually ground altitude while in the process of taking out a Luftwaffe airbase. Those P-51's were lost via heavily concentrated enemy ground fire. The figures mentioned in the book were quite accurate, although I was on raids with 45 fighters and, although we flew more than one sortie in one day, the 4th F.G. did a hell of a lot more damage to the enemy on "our" day than what was mentioned in the book by an even larger array of fighters.

Rhubarbing was extremely dangerous, deadly and outright hell. As I mentioned in my first article, for every fighter we'd lose while escorting the bombers, we'd lose four on Rhubarb missions. And that's what the high command had us doing when we weren't escorting the bombers. So I have adequate reason to feel that you'll find my next article not only quite informative but quite exciting. You bomber people will learn that we fighter jocks caught quite a number of very deadly and costly "extra curricular activities."

Bill, I'd appreciate it very much if you'd drop me a brief note and let me know the date that you have to receive my article. I own and operate a very high technology engineering organization and we've suddenly become busier than a dog trying to follow 29 kids. There's an acute shortage of sharp high-tech engineers and I'm trying to round some up, but they're very hard to come by. We're also working nights and even though I have excellent engineering managers, I'm extremely busy. In the meantime, I'm staying up at night endeavoring to prepare a good article for your next issue. So that is why I need your dateline. It will certainly help me with my pressing schedules, believe me.

Thanks again, Bill, for the extra copies and your fine letter.

Maj. Warren Johnson

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Dear Bill:

I read with much interest the two articles concerning the Duneberg raid of April 7, 1945 which appeared in the September issue of the *Journal*.

A good friend of mine, George Rolly, was the radar navigator (Mickey) in the deputy lead plane.

His plane and the lead ship were physically hit by an ME-109 on that mission, resulting in the loss of both aircraft.

I was the radar navigator of a lead crew from the 453rd Bomb Group but at that time was flying with the 389th since most of the 453rd had left for the States.

I talked to some of George's crew several days after the raid. To the best of my forty year old remembrance, this is their story —

After being hit by the ME-109, about half the crew including George were able to get out. As they were coming down, they were being fired on from the ground.

About three days later, half of those who got out of the ship were back at Hethel.

However, George did not make it. Graves Registration found his body about March of 1947.

George came from a town not far from where I grew up and I had the sad duty of visiting his family upon my return to the States, then of attending his funeral when his body was returned.

May I thank you for your efforts in making the *Journal* the means of awakening both the fond and sad memories of the long ago that we all have.

Joseph J. Donovan

Dear Bill:

I need help in obtaining copies of the following books:

1. FLYGHISTORISK REVY, Special Issue Nov. '76. Publ. Swedish Aviation Historical Soc.
2. TARGET BERLIN, MISSION 250: 6 March 1944. By Jeffery Ethell & Alfred Price, Publ. Jane's.
3. TARGET GERMANY, publisher, date, and author(s) unknown.

If anyone out there can tell me where to obtain these books I really would appreciate the information. I'll share my cigarette ration with you.

Jim McMahon (93rd BG)
Toggleier/Nose Gunner
P.O. Box 4954
Santa Rosa, Calif.

□ □ □ □ □

Dear Pete:

The 2ADA tapes I and II were dispatched to Col. Vince Cahill today and were properly insured per your instruction.

Pete, I cannot tell you how much the whole family enjoyed seeing the two tapes. Memories became most vivid. I thank you sincerely for the opportunity to go back to a real interesting time period.

By the way, I believe you are doing a fine job in administering the VCR tape program.

Thank you very much.

Ed Cason (467 BG, 789 BS)

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Dear Evelyn:

I enclose my check for \$10 to cover a gift membership for my son, Scott J. Stanton (a Vietnam A/F combat veteran), as an associate member in the organization.

He liked Great Gorge and the people.

Art Stanton (44th BG)

□ □ □ □ □

Dear Evelyn:

Thanks for the good time we had at the reunion. That was our first one. Sorry now that we did not know about our organization sooner.

Enclosed please find check for \$100 for deposit for Reunion in 1987. Request reservations with Ralph Ford, who I understand has sent his deposit also.

Thanks again for everything.

Dennis McElhinny

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Dear Evelyn:

Enclosed you will find check for deposit on reservations for my wife and I for the 1987 meeting in Norwich. I've been in contact with Ralph Ford and Dennis McElhinny who were at Great Gorge earlier this month. We decided then and there, your efforts were without equal, and enjoyed ourselves so much we all want an early start on future events. Please advise if check enclosed is enough for both our reservations. If not will gladly send more.

Jim Halligan

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Dear Evelyn:

I knew that the day would come that I would be writing to you and here it is. Now there is nothing exciting that I have to say nor do I have any big assignments for you to carry out. Just an update on a former dues paying member that wishes to come back into the fold.

Please add the following individual to your address list and send him information on dues.

Charles R. Loftus
53 Cloutman's Lane
Marblehead, Mass. 01945

Just one small bit of information that you might be interested in. My wife and I have a home in Oscoda, Mich. It is on the shores of Lake Huron. Early in August we had a visit by an English couple. They are from Shipdham. They were our host and hostess when we went to the 44th Bomb Group memorial dedication at Shipdham in September 1983.

Enough for now! I will let you get back to more important work. The best of everything to you.

Norm Kiefer (44th)

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Dear Bill:

Recently I found the negative of the enclosed picture. If you would print it in the *Journal* and advise any of the crew members who would like a copy to please write me, I would send them a print.



Charles E. Aton
2900 First National Tower
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

□ □ □ □ □

Dear Bill:

Sorry that I didn't have more time with you at the reunion, but I met an old buddy from my 700th Squadron, 445th BG and we drank the night away. (ed: It happens!)

I did look for you at breakfast Sunday morning, but couldn't make contact. We left later to go to Rhinebeck to see the WWI planes fly by.



I spoke with a couple of pilots who said that they will look for information about the Poster picture in the *Journal*. If you would publish the small picture of me holding the photo print and quote the price of \$20 which includes mailing, with \$5.00 going to the Memorial Fund, we should get some responses. Hope to see you soon.

Henry Orzechowski
333 Mendon Ave.
Pawtucket, R.I. 02861
□ □ □ □ □

Dear Sir:

Just received a few old copies of Second Air Division Newsletter from a friend. I didn't know of your organization. I sure would like to know a lot more.

You see, I was in the 8th Air Force, 857th Bomber Sqd., 492 Bomber Group. Was stationed in England somewhere between Leicester, England and Northampton, England. We had black planes and flew at night.

I would like to get in touch with someone from the ground crew of the 857th Bomb. Sqd., 492 Bomber Group.

All this is like finding a new world.

Sorry that I'm 40 years late.

Lee Knepp
121 McMillen Ave.
Beaver Falls, PA 15010
1-412-846-6206
□ □ □ □ □

Dear Evelyn:

That was a great reunion and my personal thanks to you for your outstanding dedication and leadership in the 2nd AD Association. June and I also thank you for our being able to be with you all. Each day went great, and I felt the Memorial Service at West Point was tops.

This past Friday and Saturday around 200 persons were at Dayton, Ohio to dedicate the 392nd Memorial at the Air Force Museum. It was a privilege to be the speaker at that event.

Enclosed is a check for June and I for the Norwich trip in '87. Trust all is well and we can be with you all.

Our very best wishes to you and your sister and again sincere thanks.

Joe & June Whittaker
□ □ □ □ □

Dear Bill:

Sorry that I didn't get to meet you at the reunion. You seemed to show up at the head table at the Business Meeting and then disappear.

This was my first reunion and my observations may be of interest.

I didn't bring my wife along since she was born about the time we were flying in England and some blabbermouth at the reunion might insist that there were no 12 year old pilots in WWII. I did bring a navigator, for old times sake, and he brought everything but a sextant. I drew the line when he wanted a flak vest to sit on. From Massachusetts he found Connecticut and New York without too much difficulty. And we came within a mile of the resort on our first pass. The second run was right on target with no flak or fighters reported at the debriefing in the bar. The Royal Gorge Resort was ideal for a reunion and well hidden. I wonder how many navigators are still wandering in the hills looking for it?

I do feel that first timers should be advised to wear high boots. Several times, after the war stories got going, I found that the horse manure was well above my ankles. Unfortunately I didn't find one person there who flew with me at Hardwick, leaving me with the impression that I may have been the sole survivor. However, the old timers went out of their way to make me welcome and I had a great time.

It was a shock to find that everyone else was so much older. One speaker said that some of us might have children who served in Vietnam, but failed to mention that some of us WWII youngsters also served there. I got my first DFC in England in 1944 and my last two in Vietnam in 1968-9.

After returning home, scraping the manure off my shoes and telling my wife that the business meeting was the highlight of the reunion, I looked back on it with great pleasure and hope to attend more.

Tom Parry
□ □ □ □ □

Dear General Low:

On behalf of the Corps of Cadets and the United States Military Academy, I want to thank the Second Air Division Association for its generous gift of \$1,000 to the West Point Fund. Special thanks for making the gift unrestricted in order to allow us the flexibility of applying it to the area of greatest need.

Support such as yours has helped make it possible for us to continue many worthwhile projects, not available from appropriated funds, which add extra dimension to life at West Point. Without the West Point Fund, many programs and projects could not be undertaken. You may be sure that your donation will play a vital role in sustaining the Academy as an outstanding institution.

It will be my pleasure to have the name of the Second Air Division Association inscribed on a special Major Donor Plaque located in the sally port of the Headquarters Building.

With best wishes from West Point,
Sincerely,

Willard W. Scott, Jr.
Lieutenant General, U.S. Army
Superintendent
□ □ □ □ □

Hi Guys:

I am a brand new member of your Association. We were a lead crew from the 389th BG 565 Squadron from Dec. 1944 thru VE Day.

What prompted this letter was a call from Dave Powers concerning the April 7, 1945 mission. (Dave likes to call around 9 P.M. Calif. time, which is midnight in Florida. But who cares when you're talking about flying.) He was in the 566th Squad. and was seeking info on that mission.

When sending in for my membership, I requested the Sept. *Journal*. Evelyn was kind enough to send me the June and Sept. issues. In the Sept. one, I found two accounts of the April 7, 1945 mission, one by John Maguire, and the other by Jim Kratoska. What confused me was the name of the target. Our crew received a Lead Crew Commendation for that mission, but the target was Neunmunster.

We were leading the high right squadron. After my conversation with Dave, I phoned a couple of the crew that I am in touch with. Roby (co-pilot) kept a diary, and he sent me a copy of the targets we hit. Here is his entry for April 7, 1945.

"Squadron Leader to dynamite works, Neunmunster, near Hamburg. Hit by ME-109s and heavy flak. Suicide fighter crashed into the lead echelon taking down Colonel Herboth and Major Tolleson with Dallas and Kunkle. Christian crash landed. We assumed the lead of the entire 8th Air Force. 1400 planes and more than 14,000 men. Got excellent on Primary. Flew between flak guns on Kiel Canal. Group also hit secondary target successfully. Jimmy Stewart and Col. Arnold recommended us for the DFC." As the radio operator I sent the strike report to . . . (AW1) Amen Amen . . . If there was another Lead Crew Commendation on this mission, I would like to know about it. It seems improbable because the accounts tell basically the same story, but with the wrong target. Maybe the secondary target was Duneberg.

The crew picture with David Powers letter on page 27 of the Sept. 1985 *Journal* is our crew. Names of the crew members are Clark Robinson, Co-pilot; Perry Sessoms, pilot; Izzy Levine, navigator; George Wenick, waist; Sid Turner, waist; Bill Nelson, tail; John Leuthold, eng.; Carl Wirges, radio; Ed Teeven, nose. Izzy Levin was taken off our crew Feb. 4, 1945, so he was not on the April 7 mission.

Carl Wirges
2343 SW 17th Drive
Deerfield Beach, Fla. 33442
305-426-3794

PS: We crashed near Venlo Holland on the low-level re-supply mission to British troops near Wesel on March 24, 1945. Five direct hits with 88mm and over 260 small fire holes. I carried a camera with me at all times, and I have pictures of the crash we all walked away from. I will send them and the story of the flight.
□ □ □ □ □

Dear Evelyn:

I met my Navigator at the Newark airport enroute to the Reunion and much to my dismay I discovered that he had not yet joined our Association.

Enclosed is a check for his membership. Perhaps receiving the *Journal* and learning more about us will get him aboard the 1986 Reunion in Chicago.

I had a great time in McAfee and fully expect to make Chicago.

Thank you for all you contributed to the success of the McAfee affair!!

Charles Walker
□ □ □ □ □

THE PX PAGE



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"THE 467th BOMBARDMENT GROUP, SEPT. 1943-JUNE 1945" by Allan Healy and privately printed in 1947. It is currently in its third printing. This narrative of one bombardment group which was attached to the 2nd Air Division of the 8th Air Force traces its history from its formation at Mt. Home, Idaho through the completion of its missions in Europe in June 1945. It is buckram covered and embossed as was the original. It contains 156 pages with many photographs and lists 183 combat missions. The casualty list is included. The book will cost \$30.00 and will be postage paid.

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