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SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION • EIGHTH AIR FORCE



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Winter 1995

HOLIDAY REFLECTIONS

BY ROB FISK (44TH BG)



∞
May The
Torch of
Freedom Burn
Forever
∞

A long about this time of the year, when I've finally got my one string of lights strung on my front hedge, I think back to Christmas of 1944. That really was a "lump in my throat" period of my army life.

That Christmas would be my third spent in the service, and away from home. Our crew still had a number of missions to complete before we would be rotated home for reassignment. Things were looking bleak and no one in our barracks evidenced any open signs of the real Christmas spirit.

Around the end of November, I began collecting that outer carton from "K" rations, the one that had been dipped in wax to save the contents from water, I guess in case of ditching. I had noticed that those packed by the "Cracker Jack" company were more heavily coated with wax than others. So I enlisted the aid of some of my barracks mates and asked them to bring back that part of their rations cartons from the next few missions.

Using what tools were at hand (my mess kit knife), I scraped off enough wax to form three candles. Rolled by hand around wicks made from an unraveled shoelace, I ended up with three candles about an inch thick by about five inches tall.

Late on Christmas Eve, I walked over to a mess hall and knocked on the locked kitchen door. One of the cooks cracked open the door

and asked me what the hell I wanted. Then he recognized me as one who had complimented him on his griddle cakes a few days before. I came away with two one-pound tins of bacon, two boxes of powdered eggs, and three cans of evaporated milk.

Getting that Sibley stove in our barracks heated with our meager fuel supply was the real problem. Our copilot, Don Armstrong, scrounged a couple of pails of coke from that "well guarded" depot that lay next to our quonset. We soon had a fair cookin' fire blazing in that stove.

To the surprise of most, those powdered eggs, prepared in a mess kit pan and scrambled with a bit of bacon fat and evaporated milk, was a real treat to our taste buds.

We lit the three candles in one of our windows, figuring the Luftwaffe would be too busy celebrating their own holiday to disturb us. Someone tuned in some carols being broadcast by the Armed Forces Radio. Soon most of the gang were just sitting, or lying on their bunks as their memories turned to thoughts of other Christmases at home. When I was afraid the candles might be a sad reminder for some and began to pinch them out, they all asked me to leave them on as it reminded them of home.

I believe we all enjoyed observing that one Christmas eve as it was meant to be, at peace, if only for one night. ■



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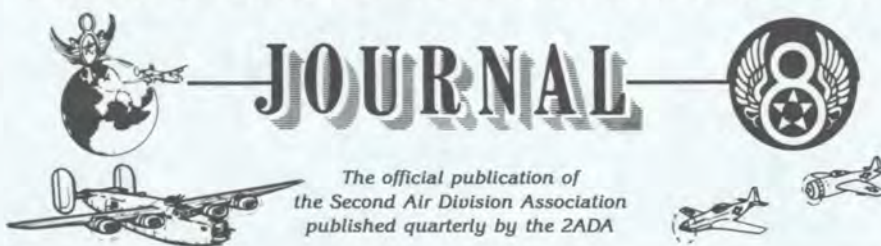
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SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION



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TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Message GEOFF GREGORY	3	446th Bungay Bull AUD RISLEY	24
Vice President's Message NEAL SORENSEN	4	The 448th Speaks CATER LEE	17
Report on the Memorial Trust E. BUD KOORNDYK	5	453rd Flame Leap JAY JEFFRIES	24
The New Editor Speaks! RAY PYTEL	6	458th Bomb Group RICK ROKICKI	18
Your Heritage League BILLY SHEELY JOHNSON	23	466th Attlebridge Tales EARL WASSOM	10
Bulletin Board	9	467th Poop from Group RALPH ELLIOTT	8
Folded Wings	12	489th Notes RALPH BELWARD	7
New Members	34	491st Ringmaster Reports HAP CHANDLER	7
8AF Heritage Museum Grand Opening	20	492nd Happy Warrior Happenings W.H. "BILL" BEASLEY	11
1994-1995 Financial Report	28		
Attendees at Norwich	29		
Attendees at Lexington	33		
48th Annual 2ADA Business Meeting DAVID PATTERSON	30		
49th Annual Convention Information EVELYN COHEN	35		
The PX Page	37		
Letters	38		

GROUP REPORTS

Division Headquarters RAY STRONG	15	ARTICLES	
44th News H.C. "PETE" HENRY	16	Greetings from the Friends of the Second Air Division Memorial KEITH THOMAS	4
Open Letter to the 93rd FLOYD H. MABEE	13	Our 2ADA Candlelighting Ceremony JORDAN UTTAL	12
389th Green Dragon Flares FELIX LEETON	9	News from Across the Pond DAVID HASTINGS	14
392nd Bomb Group OAK MACKEY	19	We Are the Mustangs . . . Your Little Friends of World War II ROBERT E. KUHNERT	22
445th Bomb Group RAY PYTEL	25	Dick and His Crew EDWARD WILEN	26
		What's in a Name?	27
		14th Annual 2ADA Golf Tournament	27
		Kassel Mission Memorial Rededication REG MINER	27
		2AD Hero Bill Getz Receives 2nd DFC	40

THE SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION traces its initial meeting to 1948 in Chicago, Illinois. It was organized as a nonprofit corporation in the State of Illinois on January 10, 1950. Members of the original Board of Directors were Second Air Division veterans Marilyn Fritz, Howard W. Moore, Jordan R. Uttal, and Percy C. Young. The association's purpose is to advocate and support an adequate, effective and efficient Army, Navy and Air Force at all times; to perpetuate the friendships and memories of service together in the Second Air Division, 8th Air Force in England during World War II; to support financially, and in any other way, the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division as represented by the 2nd Air Division Memorial Room of the Norwich Central Library; and to undertake such other activities as may from time to time be deemed appropriate by the membership.

REGULAR (Voting) MEMBERSHIP in the association is limited to those personnel, military and civilian, American or British, who at any time served with the Headquarters organization of the 2nd Bomb Wing, 2nd Bomb Division or 2nd Air Division during World War II and any person who served with any bomb group or fighter group or any other unit of the Second Air Division assigned or attached. Provisions are also made for Associate (Non-Voting) memberships.

Please submit all material for publication to the editor by the 15th of December, March, June, or September. We make every effort to mail your Journal within 45 days of the deadline listed above. Your receipt of the Journal will be anywhere from one to four weeks later, depending on the U.S. Postal Service — especially your own post office.

President's Message: Greetings From Texas!

BY GEOFF GREGORY

This article is the first I will use to keep in touch with you, our members, in the year ahead. I had the honor of accepting the gavel of office from President "Chuck" Walker at our Lexington convention. Chuck performed his duties with devotion to the 2ADA, and he did so with honor. His presidency will influence this organization for a long time to come.

In terms of my commitment to the 2ADA, I repeat what I said at the Lexington banquet. I hope to expand the base of our management personnel, and encourage more of you to take an active role in association affairs. I will endeavor to save our money where appropriate, and at the same time, continue the services already in place. I will apply good judgement to the occasional pesky problems which plague any type of organization.

Speaking of Lexington . . . what a great reunion it was! I found myself wondering "why." Why is one reunion outstanding as compared to others which are always good? Most of the credit goes to Evelyn Cohen, of course, and as usual. However this time her choice of the Marriott Griffin Gate Hotel was in the mix. The warmth of the staff, beautiful grounds, great facilities and good food were all first rate. The ambience of the entire area was superb. Also, John Conrad and his gracious wife Wanda were always in evidence, making sure our needs were met. John and Wanda reside in Lexington, and I think they were more than a little proud of their hometown . . . and rightfully so.

Another event which acted as a "binder" for the convention was the great Dzenowagis tape of the Norwich VE Day parade. It was greeted enthusiastically by the almost 700 assembled veterans and their families. It certainly brought back special memories to all of us lucky enough to have been there. Thanks, Joe! I know you worked overtime to complete that tape in time for Lexington. We appreciate you and your family.

During the convention itself, there was an increase in activity in the foyer over previous years, or so it seemed to me. The Headquarters WAC detachment sold chances on a beautiful wall hanging created by Dorothy Krogmann, which incidentally was translated into a \$1,100.00 WAC endowment for library books.



General "Buck" Shuler (left), CEO of the 8th AF Heritage Museum, with Jordan Uttal, 2ADA Honorary President, at the barbeque at the Lexington convention.

General "Buck" Shuler, CEO of the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, along with our own Mary Beth Barnard, manned a booth showing construction progress. They also disseminated other information on their great project, which is now well underway.

Vince Ré, our 2ADA photographer, displayed wonderful examples of his work, especially those photos of the parade and the Norwich Cathedral service.

Phyllis DuBois, our trust librarian, exhibited many photos of the temporary Memorial, and also, I understand, a tape about the history of Norwich which I unfortunately missed.

Mr. Turner of Turner Publishing Company commented on the success of the first edition of the 2nd Air Division history. He remarked that it was the best book of its type that they had ever published. Plans are now underway for a second edition of the book. Mr. Turner invites all 2ADA members who failed to send in their bios for the first edition, to be sure to send them in for the second edition. This invitation also includes those of you who might wish to upgrade and add on to your first edition bio. Pictures, stories of missions, bomb groups and pertinent photos are also solicited. I urge all of you who have not yet participated to do so now! You owe it to yourselves, your children and your grandchildren.

There was placed in the foyer a display of the B-24 Schlitz beer cases, courtesy of the Stroh Brewing Company. These cases were full, but suddenly disappeared. Don't know where! Don't know when!! (Editor's Note: *The two I had were delicious!*)

The ladies busied themselves with trips to Shaker Village, near Lexington, and also to the horse farms. My wife, unfortunately for my wallet, found a Talbot's store with a great selection of "petite" clothes. Nuff said!

We were pleased to welcome guests from England to Lexington this year. Jean and David Hastings, who worked so hard with Evelyn to make our VE Day celebration such a resounding success, were with us. Also in attendance were Jean & David Woodrow, strong and special supporters of the 93rd Bomb Group, the 2ADA, and the Friends of the Second Air Division Memorial, and, of course, Phyllis DuBois, our trust librarian. We were disappointed that Jill and Hilary Hammond were unable to attend, but there was an excellent reason. Hilary, Director of Arts and Libraries for all of Norfolk County, was seriously engaged in meetings with the National Lottery Commission. He is trying to convince them that Norfolk and Norwich deserve a grant of £39 million. This would enable the county to rebuild the library with state-of-the-art equipment. The Norfolk-Norwich bid has presently survived cut-downs from the original several hundred bids, and is now among the final twelve candidates for an award. Much of this success, we are told, is due to the existence of the 2AD Memorial Room!!

On Monday night, July 3rd, we enjoyed a great barbeque, followed by the annual awards ceremony which I was privileged to conduct. Honored this year were: Chuck Walker (445th) with the President's Appreciation Plaque; John Conrad (392nd) and Bud Koorndyk (389th) with Exceptional Service Plaques; Hap Chandler (491st), Leroy Engdahl (448th), Gene Hartley (389th), Vince LaRussa (467th), and Gerry Merket (466th) with Distinguished Service Plaques. Three group vice presidents were honored with Vice President Appreciation Certificates: Ralph Elliott (467th), Gene Hartley (389th), and Paul Steichen (93rd).

Those of you who were with us at the convention banquet surely noticed that our friend and M.C. *par excellence*, Jordan Uttal, was not serving in that capacity, this time. This was at his request. We thank you, Jordan, for the years of enjoyment you have given us at past dinners. He has been a tower of strength, and has left us with many happy memories. I am sure nothing will keep Jordan from officiating at the candle-lighting ceremony, so we look forward to seeing him in that capacity for many more years.

The "new kid on the block" was Earl Wassom, 466th group VP. Earl did a great job, but I really feel he needs more practice — perhaps in Milwaukee. How about it, Earl?

(continued on page 8)



Vice President's Message: MUSINGS FROM MINNESOTA

BY NEAL SORENSEN

Like Robert Redford in the film *The Candidate*, on the day after the Second Air Division Association elected me to the office of executive vice president my first thoughts were, "What do I do now?" It didn't take long to find out!!

Our newly elected president, Geoff Gregory, called me and asked, "Neal, will you serve on the Fulbright Oversight Committee?" "Sure, Geoff, happy to be of help." "I'll appoint you as chairman." I winced, as this committee has devoted hundreds of hours coordinating and refereeing differences of opinion among (1) the Fulbright committee, (2) the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust, and (3) the 2nd Air Division Association executive committee, covering the operation of our splendid 2AD Memorial Room which is being rebuilt in the Norwich Central Library.

"Oh, by the way, Neal, you may as well finish out the second year as chairman of the audit committee. You can coordinate with treasurer Bill Nothstein and other committee members to find a date convenient for all." I nodded, mutely.

"And there's another thing — as president it wouldn't be proper for me to continue as chairman of the awards committee. You can handle that nicely — you've got a great group of committee members!"

If delegation of duties is the mark of a great president, my first function will be to nominate Geoff to the Hall of Fame!

Seriously, I am honored by the trust that the membership has shown by electing me executive vice president of our great association, and doubly honored by the important duties assigned to me by Geoff. In addition, several former presidents of the 2ADA have offered to give me help, so I truly look forward to a challenging year!

The steadily increasing number of our comrades listed in the *Folded Wings* section of our *Journal* every quarter reminds us of our own mortality. It should also remind each of us of the debts of loyalty we owe to one another. The 2nd Air Division Association furnishes special cards to the group vice presidents to send to the surviving families. Unfortunately, because we are so widespread geographically, quite often the group VPs are not aware of deaths at the time they occur. Evelyn Cohen is alerted when mail is returned, but with the southern migration of many of us, returned mail does not necessarily mean that the addressee is deceased.

We can all bring comfort to comrades who are ill, or to their families in the event of death, by notifying Evelyn Cohen or our group VP. If you were a crew member or friend of the deceased, a sympathy card or letter to the family will be treasured. Humorous anecdotes of your association with the individual, or a comment of his faith and courage are always comforting. Too often we read in the *Heritage Herald* of daughters and sons seeking information concerning their fathers' wartime experiences. Experiences which were often left unspoken could enrich the family lore and be passed on in turn to the succeeding generations.

In the event of a very close friend or crewmate, if time and distance permit you to do so, attending the memorial service, or, if called upon, saying a few words, will provide children with glimpses of their father heretofore unknown to them. We owe it to our comrades' families, and we owe it much more to ourselves, for in doing so we face up to what is truly important in this journey we call Life. ■



Greetings from the Friends of the Second Air Division Memorial

BY KEITH THOMAS, CHAIRMAN

As my three years as chairman of the Friends of the 2AD Memorial in Norwich draw to a close, I look back upon what we have achieved. The objectives were to ensure close contact between the base villages and the Memorial, support financially the capital fund of the Memorial, increase membership by informing the public what a debt we owe the 2nd Air Division, arrange more social events, and most important, to ENJOY DOING IT.

The contact with the bases was proved with this year's VE celebrations; a lot of planning work was carried on by the base contacts and the villages, and this was greatly appreciated by the visiting veterans.

I would have liked to see a larger membership, which would have made possible a higher financial figure for the capital fund. This is an objective we must pursue over the coming years. I am convinced that a lot of people throughout the U.K. would join us — we *must* find ways of "getting to them."

Our social events are going from strength to strength, thanks to David and Jean Woodrow, who have restored a number of the 93rd Bomb Group buildings at Hardwick, and allow us to hold BBQs, dances, etc. there. What is becoming the largest social event on our calendar is the Thanksgiving dinner in November. Not only does it contribute to our funds, but members and guests enjoy the cordial atmosphere, which goes for all our social events.

I have mentioned one person on our committee, but I would like to thank *all* members of the committee for their support during my term of office. And there is one other person I must thank, because this and all previous letters, reports, etc. would not have been typed, if not for my wife Iris.

The one upsetting event was, of course, the disastrous library fire. Words cannot describe the shock we all felt, but from the old comes the new — we must rebuild better and quickly. The "Friends" will support in every way possible the rebuilding of the new Memorial.

What about me — will I disappear into obscurity? Certainly not. I am planning to do some research on "rest homes" (flak houses), but I need help from you, members of the 2nd Air Division. The objective is to write an article on each house, using photographs taken 1943/1945, together with comparison photographs taken in 1995/1996, and I will try to get local comment from the people who remember your visits.

So you can see, I require your help. I particularly need wartime photographs of the following "rest homes" — Buckland Hotel, Wallingford, Berkshire; Eynsham Hall, Witney, Oxfordshire; Moultsford Manor, Wallingford, Berkshire; Phyllis Court, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.

Are there other flak houses that I do not know of? If so please let me know.

Do you have any interesting memories of your stay, people you met, etc.? There again, please let me know; any help would be greatly appreciated. All photographs will be copied and returned, and where possible with a direct comparison taken in 1995/1996.

Please send all photographs and information to Keith Thomas, Cannells Farm, Bow Street, Great Ellingham, Attleborough, Norfolk NR17 1JA, England.

Please rest assured that my support for the Memorial will remain as strong as ever, and I will be happy to continue working to this end in any capacity.

Iris and I look forward to visiting the United States, and seeing you all in 1996.

Editor's Note: Please, guys, try to help Keith with his "flak house" project. ■

Report on the Memorial Trust

BY E. BUD KOORNDYK

The content of this report for the Winter edition of the *Journal* will relate to the activities of various members of the Board of Governors and also what information I have at the present time regarding the rebuilding of the library.

There were articles by various members of the 2ADA which appeared in the Fall *Journal* regarding the service of dedication of our new temporary lending library in the Glasswells Building on Ber Street. Also a word of thanks to all who made this possible in such a short period of time was given by our then president, Mr. Charles Walker.

I think it is appropriate to share with our membership the accompanying article which appeared in the *Evening News* on Tuesday, August 1, 1995, the first anniversary of the fire in the Norwich Central Library. It shows again the resoluteness of Norwich County to rebuild the Central Library, incorporating with the news release the importance of the 2AD (USAAF) Memorial Room in the rebuilding process. I cannot emphasize enough the importance of having the authorities in Norwich include our Memorial Room in all of their rebuilding news releases. It shows the esteem that they place on our being such an integral part of the Norwich Central Library.

The process of updating the Charity Scheme under which the Memorial Trust must operate and which will bring it into the next century is still in the formative stage. Tom Eaton, chairman of the Board of Governors, has informed me that a copy of the new scheme, incorporating changes suggested by the solicitors, governors, and ideas offered from our side of the pond, should be ready for the Board of Governors meeting that was to be held sometime in October (the date was still not finalized when I prepared this report).

An item of interest was the return to the States of Edward McBride, a fellow governor, cultural attache and chairman of the Fulbright UK. Edward will now be headquartered in Washington as the head of the Fulbright worldwide — a great honor, and our congratulations for this promotion is hereby given.

Tom Eaton and his wife Robin, as well as Hilary and Jill Hammond, were invited to a reception in London on Wednesday, August 16, to bid farewell to Mr. and Mrs. McBride and to welcome Mr. Robin Berrington, the new cultural attache.

In previous articles, I have stressed my wish for each group to consider making a donation of \$1,000.00 to the Special Endowment Fund of the Memorial Trust. Since the Fall *Journal* came out, I am pleased to report that I have forwarded to Tom Eaton a total of \$3,000.00. \$2,000.00 were additions to existing endowments and \$1,000.00 was a donation from the WACs. They will now be recognized into perpetuity in the annual report of the Memorial Trust of the Special Endowment Fund. Have

any of you considered making a donation of stocks or bonds, or incorporating a bequest for the Memorial in your wills or trusts? For any questions you may have in this regard, I would welcome a phone call or correspondence by mail. This is a wonderful way of making donations of stocks that have appreciated in value. The value of the stock is at its present value and becomes a donation to the 2ADA, which in turn can forward it to the Memorial Trust.

Hilary Hammond, Chairman of Arts and Libraries, has reported to me by phone that the process of receiving a gift of some £39 million from the Millennium Commission is still ongoing. A final determination on the success of this attempt will not be known until later in the year. This gift would assist the library in the rebuilding effort to make it the most modern and up-to-date library in all of Eng-

land. It was also reported that the old library is now completely demolished, with the exception of the stack towers, which in all likelihood will be rebuilt.

Phyllis DuBois, trust librarian, reports that it has been a busy summer, even after we departed for home in May after the VE Day celebration. Our room and its contents are being used every day, and many comments have been made about the quality, contents, and scope of the books and reading material that have been made available. Many of the locals are amazed by how far our efficient staff has come in such a short period of time to bring our library back to what it was, and in some cases, to even surpass our former library and its contents. Where would we have been without the dedicated services of Phyllis, Christine, and Lesley? ■

Norwich looks ahead to new future for library

SALVAGE WORK MAY TAKE TWO MORE YEARS

The major salvage operation launched after the library fire could go on for another two years.

Around 25,000 books, maps, and photographs from the unique Norfolk Studies Library were lost. But about 4,000 water-damaged books on Norwich and Norfolk, most from the library's Colman Collection, are still being kept frozen in Scotland.

A specialist restoration firm in Dundee expects to take another two years to complete the work. Around 4,500 dry but fire-damaged volumes are being cleaned and restored by the same firm in Falkirk.

Head of the Norfolk Studies Library, Clive Wilkins-Jones, said his section was one of the most badly affected by the fire.

About half the collection built up since 1850, including a collection of 15,000 photographs of Norwich dating from the 1930s, was destroyed. "This year has been totally different from how it was before the fire," he said. "For example, we are having to get to know the second hand book trade and look for 25,000 volumes to replace what was lost."

The Norfolk Studies Library has a microfilm collection at Gildengate House, Anglia Square, and hopes to start moving in original works next month.

COUNTY'S HISTORIC DOCUMENTS ESCAPED THE WORST OF THE BLAZE

One of the biggest fears in the immediate aftermath of the blaze was for priceless and irreplaceable historical documents stored in the County Record Office in the library's basement.

It quickly became clear that the most valuable items had been saved. They included the Richard I Charter to the City of Norwich in 1194, parish registers dating back to 1535, archives of the Dean and Chapter going back to the 11th century, the first Bishop's Register from 1299, original hand-written manuscripts of Sir Henry Rider Haggard novels, and title maps from the 1840s for every parish in Norfolk.

"In the end, nothing was lost," said county archivist Jean Kennedy.

But she said about 10% of the three million documents were water damaged and about 1% of the collection was sent to Harwell, near Oxford, to be freeze-dried and restored.

"We have had a number of batches back from there and expect a further consignment this week. We hope to have them all back within six months."

The process of moving records office documents into Gildengate House, where they will stay for three to five years, began in June.

Mrs. Kennedy expects the new records office to open next month (September 1995). A decision on the site of the office's permanent replacement has still to be taken.

(continued on page 6)

THE NEW EDITOR SPEAKS!

BY RAY PYTEL



Our new editor, "getting his feet wet"

When I was asked to become the new editor of the 2ADA *Journal*, I felt not only "humbled" but a bit fearful of the many clichés that accompany any new job — such as "it's a step in the right direction" (I'm a lefty, or even more confusing, I'm "ambidextrous," which literally means "having two right hands"), "you have big shoes to fill" and me with size 8 1/2's — I'm sure the late Bill Robertie had his feet more firmly planted on the ground! Good thing I was in the Air Force, as many times my feet were firmly planted in the air!

It was 2ADA President Chuck Walker who intoned, "Pytel will have to have time to get his feet wet!" Needless to say, at the next break of the executive committee meeting I quickly located the ubiquitous camera fiend Carl "The Original" Rambo and we went out the front door of the Marriott and "got my feet wet" in the flower fountain! (I was glad no one said "Pytel must learn the ropes" — I'd hate to run around looking for a rope to hang myself with on the front steps of the mighty Marriott.)

Well, the traditional way is to come in "like gangbusters" or with a new "broomhandler relocates the dirt" type announcement, but I really have a problem here . . . there is nothing wrong with the *Journal*! The late Bill Robertie and the staff at Defiance Graphics, owners Paul and Beverly Tardiff and that wonderful "Girl Friday" (every day,

say the Tardiffs) Emily Brown, have set and kept the course well.

One must not forget the editorial review board, Bud Chamberlain, Jordan Uttal, and Charles Freudenthal, whose duty was to help and oversee the publishing of the *Journal* during the illness of the late Bill Robertie and to keep the *Journal* on course until the new editor is well set and "knows the ropes" without hanging himself. Knowing that I will need all the help I can get, to start "on course" I have requested the continuation of the board and chairman Bud Chamberlain at least until the next executive committee meeting.

So, my dear friends, 2ADA members and *Journal* readers, I promise to keep the course, make no "180° turns" or quick dips or spins . . . but make any corrections slowly and gently, add a little spice here and there — but don't fix a plane or journal that runs well! Now back to work — there is a Winter issue to get out! Wish me well! ■



Ray Pytel and wife Twyla Kieffer with Paul Tardiff's 1967 Corvette

EDITOR'S QUANDARY...

Last summer, while going through the files left at Defiance Graphics Corp. by the previous editor, we came across this picture:



The question is: Who are these two goodlooking girls, and why didn't they pick a man their age?

Conundrum #2: A British news item from our World War II days states that several U.S. 8th Air Force men were kicked out of a pub, started a small riot, and the "Bobbies" were called. Apparently the men were singing the famous British drinking song "Anacreon in Heaven" too loudly — the question is, who was Anacreon, and what were the words to this song?

Anyone who answers all four questions correctly will win "First Prize." In case of ties, duplicate "first prizes" will be awarded. The decision of the judge (Editor) will be final. ■

REPORT ON THE MEMORIAL TRUST (continued from page 5)

STAFF RALLIED ROUND TO HELP IN TIME OF CRISIS

After the shock of watching their workplace go up in flames, library staff have rallied over the last year. A bright temporary lending library has opened in Ber Street with a stock of the latest books and music.

Senior librarian Joan Emerson said, "It hasn't been an easy time for staff. The first day was appalling. Standing watching the place burn it was hard to find any crumbs of comfort. But since then we have been able to buy new books and replace shelving and counters, which has helped to make a modern, bright library that people want to use."

Around 120,000 lending library books were destroyed in the Central Library fire. After helping with salvage work at the burned-out library, staff worked at branch libraries in Norwich and catalogued and processed new books.

"The staff are very pleased to be back in their own library and providing a service again," Mrs. Emerson said.

A "SAD DAY" RECALLED

To Norwich Society administrator Sheila Kefford, the Norwich library fire seems longer than one year ago, because so much has happened since. "It was such an emotional day," she said. "I remember going straight down to see it and feeling so very sad."

Mrs. Kefford congratulated County Hall on the temporary facility on Ber Street and expressed her hope that the new library would be built on its original site as quickly as possible.

"While we realise there is a lot of bureaucracy involved, we do urge that it is rebuilt as soon as possible with the most prestige within the city centre," she said. "We think this is a great opportunity for building an outstanding library." ■



491st BOMB GROUP
POSTREMUM ET OPTIMUM

the
RINGMASTER
REPORTS

BY HAP CHANDLER

LEXINGTON REUNION

Twenty-two Ringmasters and wives attended the Second Air Division Association reunion in Lexington, Kentucky over the Fourth of July weekend. Andrew Bouchard and Chester Carr, fellow crew members from the 853rd Squadron, had their first reunion in fifty years. The Lloyd Metcalfs were also attending their first reunion. They joined John and Marilyn Leppert, Vin and Wilma Cahill, Hugh and Thelma Bennett, Ken and Janet Neitzke, Cal Shahbaz, Jim and Thelma Campbell, and Caroline and me in three days of bluegrass nostalgia.

From the opening barbeque and awards picnic to the farewell dinner, there were a host of activities. A video of the celebration in Norwich of the 50th anniversary of VE Day brought back memories of a similar occasion in 1945. Members of the 491st joined their Second Air Division comrades in parading through the streets of Norwich as fifty years before, and received a rousing ovation from our British hosts. This excellent video is being made available from the 2ADA collection.

HERITAGE MUSEUM DEDICATION

Members of the Second Air Division Association will be in Savannah, Georgia, May 12-14, 1996 for the dedication of the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum. Those desiring reservations may contact Evelyn Cohen — see pages 20 and 21 for full details.

The 8th Air Force was activated January 28,

1942 at the Bull Street Armory in downtown Savannah. Our 14th Wing Commander, General Leon Johnson, then a major, recalled that he was assigned to the embryo 8th headquarters. Shortly after activation Brigadier General Asa Duncan, the acting commander, was summoned to Washington. "When he told me that he was going," General Johnson says, "I asked him to 'be sure and get us a job while you are in Washington.'"

General Duncan died enroute to North Africa when his B-17 crashed into the Bay of Biscay. General Johnson was awarded the Medal of Honor for his leadership of the 44th Bomb Group at Ploesti. He subsequently became the commander of the 14th Combat Wing, to which the 491st was assigned in August 1944.

It is only fitting that the record of the Mighty Eighth be preserved in the city of its birth. We look forward to seeing many Ringmasters at this historic occasion.

491ST REUNION IN CINCINNATI

More than two hundred attended the annual Ringmasters reunion at the Omni Netherland Hotel in Cincinnati, September 7, 8 & 9, 1995. A solemn memorial service at the Wright Patterson AFB chapel was held on Friday the 8th. President Cal Shahbaz presided, assisted by Dr. William McClelland, Bill Mulock, and Nelson Leggette.

General Jack G. Merrell, our wartime deputy commander, was remembered by the erection of a plaque at the Air Force Museum. General Merrell served as the commander of the Air Force Logistical Command and was largely responsible for securing the funding for the museum. He was represented by his widow and his son, Jack G. Merrell, Jr.

Major General Frederic H. Miller dedicated the plaque with a summary of General Merrell's outstanding Air Force career. The plaque reads as follows: "Dedicated in fond memory

of General Jack G. Merrell, U.S. Air Force, whose outstanding leadership contributed greatly to our success. From his comrades in arms, the 491st Bombardment Group (H), 8th Air Force, European Theater, 1944-1945."

After an informal dinner Friday night, many of the attendees took an early morning excursion on the Ohio River, while others toured the many attractions of Cincinnati. Saturday afternoon's annual business meeting featured an address by Colonel Tipton. He gave an excellent account of current Air Force programs and included a brief summary of his combat career in Vietnam.

All of our group officers were reelected for another year, except for the editor of the *Ringmasters Log*. Nelson Leggette will become editor, allowing your correspondent more time to devote to Second Air Division Association matters. After twenty issues and six years, we felt it was time for a change. Nelson is well qualified for this assignment, and we wish him well in his endeavors.

Saturday night was magic — literally. A magician performed feats of sleight of hand that mystified and mesmerized. He was followed by a "big band" while we danced the night away. So ended another chapter in the saga of the "Last and Best."

For those who could not attend — we missed you. We look forward to seeing you at our next event, in May at Savannah.

RINGMASTER HISTORY

Jack Leppert, our history chairman, reports that 144 books have been sold in the past year, and three were donated to the 2AD Memorial Room in Norwich to replace those destroyed by fire. In addition, a gift of 32 books to the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum was approved by the board. These books are to be sold in partial payment of our pledge of \$40,000 in support of the museum. ■

489TH
NOTES

BY
RALPH L. BELWARD

The 48th annual convention of the Second Air Division Association, held at Lexington, Kentucky in July, produced a change of officers within the 489th Bomb Group. These changes are: Group VP — Ralph L. Belward; permanent VP Communications — Charles H. Freudenthal; Treasurer — John P. Lamar; and Secretary — Otey R. Berkeley.

The 489th BG members wish our former VP, Neal Sorensen, well in his new and very

challenging position as executive vice president of the 2ADA, which we know he will fulfill because of his gracious, understanding, and gentlemanly manner. The 489th stands ready to aid Neal in any way that he might need to fulfill this important position.

Please send your 489th BG dues, and if possible a little extra for our newsletter, to John P. Lamar, 1800 S. Joe Wilson Road, Cedar Hill, Texas 75104.

A number of 489th ladies were responsible for producing kneelers for St. Peter's Church, Holton-Halesworth, which were blessed and placed on the altar in a very moving ceremony in 1994. In 1995, the ladies again rolled up their sleeves and proceeded to make "Formation Fun — Orlando 1995" a resounding success.

"Formation Fun — Orlando 1996" will be held February 4, 5, 6, and 7, with an "Until We

Meet Again Breakfast" the morning of February 8, at Howard Johnson, Universal Tower, International Drive, Orlando, Florida. The hotel and its management have made us feel very much at home. They also gave the 489th the best prices for a quality reunion. Our committee investigated several other hotel-motel sites, but decided that "The Tower" had the best deal for everyone. "Formation Fun — Orlando 1996" follows immediately after the 2ADA's annual Florida regional reunion on February 3 at the Clarion Hotel.

Anyone interested in "Formation Fun — Orlando 1996," please contact the committee through me, Ralph Belward, at 5780 Sandpiper's Drive, Lakeland, Florida 33809, phone (941) 853-5157.

As your new group VP, I appreciate your past support and personal communication while serving as 489th BG treasurer. ■



BY RALPH ELLIOTT

My thanks to *Journal* editor Ray Pytel for calling to let me know he could accept my late article for the Winter issue. I figured I'd have to abort the mission since the deadline had passed, about the same day Yvonne and I returned to the Lower 48 through U.S. customs at Vancouver, Canada. We left Tucson for Alaska on July 7th in our Holiday Rambler motor home and parked it back in the driveway after 8729 miles, no flat tires, a stack of credit card gas tickets (at six miles per gallon, they do stack up), and three windshields with little "stars" and a couple of two-foot cracks in them. "Chip-seal" and rocks, from many miles of new road construction on the Alaskan Highway, will get to the glass eventually. The fall colors as we left Anchorage for home past Denali National Park (and Mt. McKinley), into Fairbanks and on east, were fantastic. The Kenai Peninsula is spectacular.

Some of you met our daughter, Becky, and her husband, Mike Price, at the 467th BG's Tucson reunion four years ago. They live in Anchorage now, and Becky's T-shirt says it all: "Work is for people who don't know how to fish." We did manage to get home with the freezer full of fresh caught salmon and halibut. As a matter of interest, Evelyn, we found a hotel in Nome, Alaska that would make a great convention site, although I don't suppose we'd make enough panning for gold to cover expenses. I got three flakes and no nuggets on the first try.

I finally got through the stack of mail awaiting action, and the first order of business is to move William Brown back to Omaha from Lincoln, where I mistakenly put him in the Fall 1995 *Journal*. Sorry I missed you in Lexington, Bill, but I appreciated your note and comments on a "great convention" there.

On the subject of the P-51 crash at the 200th mission celebration, I had a nice note from Jim Mahoney that included additional information and comment worth repeating. Jim writes, "I had not known the pilot's name, but I imagine that Martin Bowman researched it. As for being a first or second lieutenant, he could very well have been either. We forget that some crews finished their tours very quickly — sometimes in less than three months in the summer when weather allowed daily missions. I believe that some weren't around long enough to get a promotion and went home with the same rank with which they came. One small addition to the P-51 crash: Immediately after it happened, the leader of the P-51 acrobatic team, Robin Olds (then a major) sent his team home and came in to land. I picked him up at the hardstand. He had not seen the crashed plane in flight and thought it might have been one of his. I assured him that the markings were different, and we drove down to the crash site. It was a sad scene and did put a damper on the rest of our 200th celebration."

To bring you up to date on the 467th Bomb Group Rackheath Memorial Marker Trust that Geoff Gregory wrote about on page 11 of the last issue of *Poop from Group*, we now have on hand copies of the National Savings Government Stock Certificate in the amount of 998.82 British pounds covering our purchase of an 8% Treasury Stock 2002-2006, "repayable at par on 5 October 2006 or at any time after 5 October 2002 if H M Treasury so decides." The certificate is registered in the names of John David Hastings, Roger Jonathan Hastings, and Robert Steven Lomax. These three men will use the interest from this certificate to maintain the 467th memorial marker at Rackheath. The light bill will need paying, flags will become unserviceable and need replacing, and minor repairs may be needed around the marker itself. Our profound thanks to all of them for their willingness to perform this service for the 467th, just as we also thank them for their

part in establishing the marker in the first place.

Evelyn Cohen has sent along a letter from England with a plea for information on the "Belle of the East" for the purpose of establishing a memorial of some sort. The plane apparently crashed in King's Lynn in August 1944. Mr. Richard Lindsay lists the crew as W-40 from the 791st BS, the pilot as Craig Harrison. Other crew members listed are Bruce Owens, John Simanowith, Charles Schultz, Mick Lavery, Charles Cochey, and Bob Farnsworth. Replacements for these were Van Cunningham, Fred Sammetinger, Kelly Lewis, and Jaque Marie. If you have information on the crash or know anyone in the above list, you can write to Richard Lindsay, 20 Woodview Road, Upper Marham, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE33 9LX.

While wandering around in the wilds of Canada, Yvonne and I missed out on the September 8 groundbreaking ceremonies for the American Air Museum in Britain at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, England. The invitation came under the name of Field Marshall The Lord Bramall KG GCB OBE MC JP. Maybe you ought to work on that COL USAF RET, Col. Shower. All kinds of possibilities! ■

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (continued from page 3)

Your executive committee met in Lexington for two days prior to the convention, and has good reason to be proud of its performance. The meetings were very spirited, and as many-faceted as a diamond. Matters of great import were discussed, and the members emerged from sometimes tense deliberations in step and looking to the future with confidence.

As you know, we have appointed Ray Pytel (445th) as the new editor of the *Journal*. We welcome Ray's keen insight, humor, and dedication. Ray's personal history is quite a story indeed, and an example of what America is all about. Perhaps, Ray, you should publish your story in book form, or at least make it known to your friends in the 2ADA in some future *Journal*.

Your president will be busy traveling on your behalf in the next few months. So far, the sun will shine on me in St. Louis, San Diego, San Antonio, Dallas (Tioga, Texas), Savannah, and last but not least, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, for some knockwurst and sauerkraut and our 49th annual convention, not necessarily in that order.

We in Dallas will be pleased to welcome the executive committee for its annual midyear conference. This meeting will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, in conjunction with the Annual Southwestern Regional Dinner of the 2nd Air Division Association. So, welcome to Texas, folks! Before I bring this long greeting to a close, I have one more point to make. I am a firm believer in spreading the load of responsibility among as many people as possible. With the talent available in this organization there is *no* reason for the few to carry the entire burden. This sometimes results in asking one person to do four, five, even six jobs at the same time. Not fair!! Each and every one of you should feel a responsibility for the administration of your association. Our system of electing an executive committee to govern the 2ADA is a good one. It works, but only so long as competent people come forward to volunteer time and service.

This organization has been well run for almost fifty years. Someone has given much time, treasure, talent, and effort in its building. Let's not forget that, as we move into our final years. The curtain of time is beginning to close around us. We cannot continue to burden a few people with the entire responsibility of this organization. Our hand is out to *all* of you. We want your input . . . criticism or compliment . . . but mostly, we ask for your PARTICIPATION!

My telephone bills are paid. My mailbox is open. With your help we can keep this the great mother organization it is. Pitch in!!! Vice presidents, get with the program! Encourage your groups to attend our conventions. Lend a hand and reap the rewarding friendships which participation will bring.

Take care of yourselves! "Till we meet again." ■



389th Green Dragon Flares

BY FELIX B. LEETON

The Lexington reunion was a great experience, as has been each of the 2ADA reunions I have attended. Marge and I were privileged to host the hospitality room, and I was elected as 389th group vice president. These two events heightened the way I viewed the whole procedure and brought into focus the reasons that our organization is unique. I remember the feeling after my first encounter at Nashville in 1982. A recent widower, I had gone to Nashville knowing no one who was there. By the last day I felt that I had "found a home," and I had, in fact, met several people whom I now think of as long time personal friends. I particularly remember breakfast on the last day. With a new friend and another first timer, I sat with the Koorndyks, the Wests, the Halletts, the Nicelys, and Gaynell Clark, all veterans of the organization who made it all fall into place for me. It has always intrigued me that, in spite of the fact that we shared a unique experience, the relatively short time I spent at Hethel could make such a profound impression on my life! At Lexington I renewed old acquaintances and met several new ones.

I had an uncle who was a charter member of a well known WWI veterans organization, had been active, played in the unit's band, and never missed a national convention. As soon as I was out of the service he paid my dues and expected me to fall into place, but, try as I might, it was not the place for me. I received a notice about the Second Air Division Association circa 1958, but didn't respond. In the early '70s, "Tommy" Thompson (446th BG) sent me a copy of the *Journal*, and I finally signed up. We made a trip to England in 1977, went to Norwich for a day, saw the Memorial Room, checked a couple of names in the Roll of Honor, and had lunch at the Maid's Head Hotel. I showed my wife the "Muscle Palace," the castle, the cathedral, and marveled at the new Nelson Hotel.

Since Lexington, I have met with several friends of long standing, all combat veterans, who have emphasized how truly different the Second Air Division Association is:

John J. was a B-24 squadron commander in the 15th AF. They have a group organization which he enjoys immensely, but it seems to lack the memories of trips to town where the "natives" were not only friendly, but spoke a similar language.

Morris T. spent the war on the aircraft carrier Cabot in the Pacific. He was quite excited to hear that the Cabot might be converted into a floating museum, but there is no organization to bring their people together. On a trip to Hawaii a few years ago his one requirement was to stay in the Royal Hawaiian Hotel, which was reserved for submariners during his shore leaves during WWII.

My son, Tom Leeton, spent the Tet year, 1968, in Vietnam as an advisor to the ARVN, but there is no one to appreciate his many war stories!

An old friend, Tom B., left here this morning on his way to the 50th and last reunion of the Iwo Jima veterans of the Marines 5th Division. They will automatically disband after this meeting unless there is a change of plans. Tom was an eighteen year old "jug head" making his third invasion (Saipan and Tinian) when he was badly wounded on the first wave at Iwo. He entered the Army after his Marine stint and retired as a colonel.

Coming through tonight is a business friend, John T., on his way to the PT boat reunion in Charlotte, NC. They expect about 750 attendees representing all PT units worldwide. His major stint was in the ETO from just before D-Day to late fall 1944, when they were loaded up and sent to the Pacific for the expected invasion of Japan. He is an eager participant in their organization, but there is such diversity of membership and lack of connection with a territory, that there is something missing!

I had lunch today with a group of aging philosophers (defined as anyone over 65 who doesn't have a job), including Ret. Col. Barry B., whose tour ran from late WWII to the mid-'70s, and Hank W., who flew A-26s off Iwo Jima.

The bottom line is that none of the above belong to an organization where contact with a friendly, understanding, cooperative population has been maintained and augmented over the last fifty years as has the Second Air Division Association, 8th Air Force, with our Norwich Memorial Room and our many friends in England! ■



FLORIDA REGIONAL REUNION IV

The 2ADA Florida Regional Reunion IV will be held on February 3, 1996 at the Clarion Plaza Hotel in Orlando. The hotel will offer special rates for three nights preceding and three nights following this date. Be sure to attend this special commemorative and fellowship gathering that will indeed be a super one! Contact:

Lawrence Gilbert
1482 Granville Drive
Winter Park, FL 32789
Tel. (407) 647-2623

12TH ANNUAL 2ADA SOUTHWEST REGION MEETING

Hi, all you Southwest Region 2ADAers!

Mark the date down now, so you don't miss it — Saturday, March 2, 1996, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel, Dallas, Texas.

We are delighted to be able to coordinate the time of the 1996 meeting with the midyear 2ADA executive committee meeting, so those of you who can attend will have the opportunity of visiting with the association officers, executive committee, group vice presidents, committee chairmen and directors.

Details will be mailed in January to 2nd Air Division Association members in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. However, all 2ADA members are welcome, and anyone interested can write or phone for details from the committee chairman, J. Ray Lemons (445th), 10515 Estate Lane, Dallas, Texas 75238, phone (214) 348-2762.

Y'all come and join us, ya heah? ■

AMERICAN AIR MUSEUM IN BRITAIN UNDERWAY

A July 27, 1995 fax from Ted Inman, Director of the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, stated that "our £6.5 million lottery grant was announced on Tuesday." This good news means construction began this autumn. Groundbreaking was planned for September 8th, and their main air show for September 10th. Some additional financing will be needed for aircraft acquisition and restoration. Ted expresses his gratitude to all members of the 2ADA who have helped to make the American Air Museum in Britain a reality.

"POOR BOY" ROSTERS

We plan to issue another "poor boy" roster in the late spring of 1996. To aid in production planning, we request those who want one to send a postcard to Bud Chamberlain, 769 Via Somonte, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274, to reserve a copy. Specific availability and price will be announced later. ■

Attlebridge Tales



by Earl Wassom

One of the many rewards of being your vice president is getting mail from all of you. Without his permission, I am going to give you a quote from John Horan: "Irene and I are still able to sit up and take nourishment. When you consider the alternative, I guess that is not too bad." He goes on to say that "for the first time since last April, a new month has rolled around and we were not heading on a trip somewhere."

The events available to the members of our old bomb group during 1995 have been outstanding and have kept us on the move. The month of May found 41 of us present for the VE Day + 50 celebration in England. During our group reunion in June in Dayton, 466ers showed up in record numbers (between 225 and 250), and in July at the 48th annual convention of the Second Air Division Association in Lexington, Kentucky, 28 of us were present at the group banquet. There were eight, John and Irene Horan, Jim and Elinor Russell, Stan and JoAnn Mohr, and Cynthia and I, who were privileged to attend all three of these unforgettable happenings.

As usual, we are putting together albums (there are now three of them) preserving the memories of the Norwich trip. We "burned" thirty rolls of film in England (about 900 pictures) and brought back programs, newspapers, ticket stubs, ribbons, and the like. Some of our photos needed cropping and enlarging. Loaded down with negatives, pictures, instructions, notes, and my checkbook, I went to the photographic shop near here. I was acquainted with the young lady and felt that she needed extra help in understanding my requirements. We went through each picture and negative explaining what we wanted. One of the pictures was of the troops gathering at Bethel Street Car Park: 900 British and American veterans forming for the Sunday parade along with the bands, the Lord Mayor of Norwich, the leading officers and local dignitaries. The military officer giving commands to all participants was essential to the meaning of the picture. The dignitaries on the left near the speakers' platform were also necessary. My instructions were to enlarge this photo but crop from each side and keep these people. Her instructions to herself were, "Keep the policeman." And she did! Another picture was of the color guard passing the review stand. "Enlarge this one but we must keep Colonel Albert Shower up there on the balcony saluting the colors. He was the wartime commander of the 467th Bomb Group," I explained. Her notation: "Keep the guy in the window." When we finished, she remarked, "What are all these pictures about?" Taking my opportunity, I des-

cribed in detail our wonderful week in Norwich, the 50th anniversary of the celebration of VE Day. "VE Day, what was that?" "Victory in Europe," I declared. "Was that a war or something like that?" Could it be that World War II was not included in her studies?

What a contrast from the school children in East Anglia. While we were there, 23 schools ranging from elementary through college level extended invitations to the 2ADA veterans to speak about the war years. Frank Bostwich and I spoke to three history classes in Sprowston High School. These kids were bright. They had heard about the war from their grandparents and older relatives. Their hometown of Norwich between the years of 1939 and 1945 had 1,553 air raid alerts lasting 1,906 hours, 340 of their own had been killed, 1,093 injured, 2,082 homes destroyed, and 28,272 homes damaged. Considering that the total number of homes in Norwich totaled 35,569, tremendous devastation took place. They talked about it and they also knew what part the RAF and the USAAF played in the total victory. Just about anyone, young or old, living in East Anglia, speaks with authority about the armada of aircraft that formed and flew overhead day and night. "The earth vibrated beneath our feet as hundreds and sometimes thousands of British aircraft by night and American aircraft by day moved into position and flew east towards the continent." Small wonder that our British friends know about the war. Our own baby boomers and their children just haven't heard.



TED CLARKE, COURIER SUPERB

And now, regardless of their age, we have countless English friends who love the 466th BG and the 2ADA. **TED AND JOYCE CLARKE** come to mind. Ted was the first person I met on my first trip back to England since 1945, when he showed me around the old base in 1992. He was also the first recognizable face I saw when we arrived at Gatwick Airport on the morning of May 5, 1995 for the big celebration. Throughout our entire visit, he was there, on the bus, around the hotel, at the Weston Longville gathering, at the base memorial, at the school where we spoke, at the banquet. A courier superb. In a letter dated 12 June, he lamented, "I will go into semi-retirement now

because this was the last reunion in Norwich, so this was my last time being a 2ADA courier." I wrote to him, "I believe we will all be doing more than ever to try and get finished what remains to be done. So, stay faithful." A few days later he wrote back that there were more visitors than ever and he is keeping busy.



DONALD & CATHY THOMSON

CATHY AND DONALD THOMSON are true friends. In Cathy's letter of 10 July, she wrote, "Over the past few years through my involvement with the 466th BG, I have had contact with so many people from all walks of life and have kept in touch when they return home." Small wonder that she knows so many of us. She and her husband have hosted our reunions again and again, and they always do a superb job of it. She declares that she had received many letters of thanks. "I know I speak for all, as I say we did it with pride and our thanks to the USAAF for what they gave fifty years ago." Cathy mentioned **DOUG LAWRENCE**. Doug cared for the garden (the grounds surrounding our memorial stone) from 1992 to February 1995. He passed away May 9, and before he died, Cathy promised him that she would look after "his garden," as he called it.



THE REVEREND PAUL ILLINGWORTH

The **REVEREND PAUL ILLINGWORTH**, rector of the All Saints Church, presided with poise and dignity as he conducted the memorial service for us on 8 May 1995. Some of the 466ers present knew that he left the hospital bedside of his wife Shirley to be with us. I was aware of his wife's critical condition earlier,
(continued on page 11)



492nd BOMB GROUP HAPPY WARRIOR HAPPENINGS

BY W.H. "BILL" BEASLEY

Twenty-nine Happy Warriors attended the 2ADA reunion in Lexington, Kentucky over the Fourth of July. It was a red letter convention for the 492nd Bomb Group.

Harold & Martha McMahon and Milton & Betty Goodridge were first-timers, as were our children from Duluth, Minnesota, Bill, Kathi, Matthew, and Joshua. Bob Cash and Milton Goodridge met again for the first time in 51 years. What a terrific happening for them!

The 492nd BG was honored to have Bill Clarey and Dick Bastien as participants in the candlelighting ceremony.

Our son Bill participated in the candlelighting ceremony of the Heritage League, and grandson Matthew received an award for his essay.

General "Buck" Shuler of the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah spoke with us during the group dinner and expressed his personal thanks and that of his staff for "Into the Hornet's Nest." Coincidentally, the painting arrived at the museum on 20 June 1994, the anniversary of the event depicted in the picture. He gave us an update on the progress of the building and invited us to attend the opening ceremonies in Savannah in May, 1996.

It is with sadness that I have to report the passing of Bill Clarey on Monday, September 11. Bill suffered a massive heart attack. We are grateful that he and Maxine were able to come to the Lexington reunion. He was a past vice president of the 492nd BG and past executive vice president of the Second Air Division Association. The 2ADA and the 492nd BG meant a great deal to Bill, and he was a loyal member of both. Bill will be greatly missed. We extend our deepest sympathy to Bill's wife Maxine, 2015 Victoria Court, Los Altos, CA 94024.

TAPED INTERVIEWS

I want to thank those of you who have made a taped interview, and encourage more of you to take few minutes to do so. Bill Clarey brought his tape to me in Lexington and we are fortunate to have it. If you need guidelines or a tape, please drop me a note and I will certainly accommodate you. Time is of the essence!

OPENING CEREMONIES - SAVANNAH

If you are planning to attend the opening ceremonies of the Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum and wish to stay at the Ramada Inn, Pooler with the 492nd BG, please get in touch with me as soon as possible. I have reservations for 13 rooms at this writing. We plan to come into Savannah on May 12, the opening ceremonies are on May 13 and 14, and we will depart on May 15.

B-24 WRECKAGE LOCATED

Paul R. Anderson, nephew of T/Sgt. Richard B. Anderson, engineer of the 856th BS, crew 608 (pilot Eugene Haddon), wrote the following account of his family's search for a

B-24 in the San Francisco mountains near Flagstaff, Arizona:

"On 21 July 1995, I took my family on a hike in the San Francisco mountains near Flagstaff, AZ, the purpose of which was to try to locate the remains of a B-24 which had crashed into the side of Mt. Humphreys during a storm in 1942. I was told that the Liberator (42-50890) was on a training mission from Kingman, AZ to New Mexico when it went down and all crew members were lost. (I have not been able to obtain any further information on this aircraft or crew as yet.) After about a 2 1/2 hour hike and climb, we were able to locate the pieces of the aircraft at about 11,000 feet on the side of the mountain. (Mt. Humphreys is 12,633 feet at the top). I was told that after the crash the AAF removed the crew remains and the guns and left the aircraft the way it was. Due to its position high on the side of the mountain, it was visible from the surrounding area and the U.S. Forest Service kept receiving calls of a downed aircraft, so sometime later they dynamited it to remove it from view! The wreckage is in a very remote wilderness area accessible only by foot.

"On the other side of the mountain there is wreckage of a B-17 that went down three days after the B-24 crashed; however, I have not attempted to locate it as yet. If you have information about the B-24, please let me know. When I find further information relating to this aircraft I will advise."

Does anyone recall this crash? Do you remember Richard B. Anderson? If you have any information you might want to share, drop Paul Anderson a note at 5920 East Peak View Road, Cave Creek, AZ 85331, and/or Bill Beasley at 1525 South Garfield Street, Denver, CO 80210-3022.

DONATIONS TO THE 8TH AF HERITAGE MUSEUM

The Second Air Division Association needs our help in meeting its pledge to the museum. At this writing \$50,000 had been given thus far, but there is still a \$50,000 commitment that has to be met. All contributions are welcome regardless of the amount. Please send your check to Bill Nothstein, 2ADA Treasurer, 40 Meadow Drive, Spencerport, NY 14559. Be sure to write 492nd BG on the memo line. To those of you who have already contributed — thanks very much.

HILL AIR FORCE BASE

I recently visited the Hill Air Force Base Museum and was impressed with the aircraft display they have there. Like all air museums, they are looking for a B-24. They do have an electrified mobile with a simulated cloud overhanging a formation of miniature B-24s that revolves. Quite a display.

Mel Blanschett, former test pilot and WWII

veteran, is volunteering his time to restore some of the aircraft. Presently he is working on a B-29 called "Haggarty's Hag."

ADDRESS BOOKS

We have left over from the reunion some small, lightweight address books with the 492nd BG design etched on the cover. These are a very thin, fold-out type that will easily fit in a shirt pocket. If interested send me \$2.00, which will cover the basic cost and postage: Bill Beasley, 1525 South Garfield St., Denver, CO 80210-3022.

DEBRIEFING TEAM LUNCHEONS

Elvern Seitzinger tells me he meets with a group of former combat flyers once a month. The group started with four and has now grown to eighty. If you are part of a similar group or are interested in getting one together, let me know.

It could be a lot of fun. There is a California group started by Bud Chamberlain which meets in the Palos Verdes area, and a few of the fellows (including one from the 492nd BG) fly up from San Diego once a month for the luncheon. We have lots of stories to tell. Hangar flying is about the safest sport you can get into. ■

ATTLEBRIDGE TALES (continued)

and when he called me to discuss the order of the memorial service, I assured him that we certainly understood if he could not be present. But he was there! It was a beautiful service and his unselfish presence and participation made it even more meaningful. Shirley passed away on July 10. She and Paul had been married since November, 1985.

EDDIE BRIGHTY is the little English lad who, because of his helpfulness and spirit, was issued a pass to the base by our squadron C.O., Major Herman Laubrich. He could freely pass the guard station unchallenged and come directly to our barracks. True, he picked up our dirty laundry and his mother made it useful again, but Eddie was also our encourager. He always knew who was on a mission. When the time approached for our return, he would build a fire in our little stove in the barracks as a welcome gesture. When a crew was lost, he watched sadly as their belongings were gathered up by someone who came in a truck. He knew their fate long before the next of kin were notified. He would get alone and cry. He had lost another American friend. For those of us who survived, Eddie is still our friend.

The slogan which was displayed in many places around Norwich during the VE + 50 celebration expresses it all: *You came as friends, you stayed as friends, you have remained as friends.* There just isn't room to tell the story of everyone, but Bryan Youngs, F.D. "Digby" Horner and his British Legion, Mike Harris, are but a few of the others. I felt that in this issue, I wanted to express gratitude from all of us to all our friends "over there." ■

OUR 2ADA CANDLELIGHTING CEREMONY

HOW IT STARTED AND DEVELOPED OVER THE YEARS

By JORDAN R. UTTAL (HQ), HONORARY PRESIDENT, 2ADA

"They are not forgotten. We shall not forget."

At the conclusion of the candle lighting ceremony at Lexington in July, as I read the poem especially written for our VE Day anniversary salute, these words forcefully reminded me of all the favorable reactions from our members over the years about this simple but heartwarming tribute to those who are no longer with us. There have been inquiries about the origins of the "Eight Candles for Remembrance." However, before going into the evolution of this expression of our feelings for our lost comrades, here is an excerpt from an article in the Summer 1992 *Journal* written

That's how we do it now. But, how did it start?

We owe thanks to Steve Posner (445th), who was president in 1956 and 1958, and his wife, Elsa, for originating the ceremony at the 1958 convention, in New York, at the Henry Hudson Hotel. (This is one of the three which I have had to miss since 1948).

As they prepared for the banquet program, they thought about recognizing the victims of the seven campaigns for which the Second Air Division was credited, and since candle lighting is a recognized commemorative gesture in several religions, they decided to tie the nam-



by Gene Hartley (389th) which vividly conveys his reactions and accurately describes the present form of the ceremony:

"First, and probably most important, is the lighting of the candles. This takes place at the final banquet with our nearly 1,000 members, families, and friends of the 2ADA in attendance. In front of the head table is a small table with eight unlit candles. To one side stand eight groups of three men each. These men represent each of the bomb groups, fighter groups, and headquarters of the 2nd Division of the Eighth Air Force. The lights in the huge banquet hall dim, and the master of ceremonies steps to the microphone. As silence throughout the room becomes absolute, he introduces the first group of three individuals from the units they represent with the statement that, "These men will light a candle in honor of those who gave their lives during the Air Offensive, Europe." The three step forward and one lights the candle. Following a significant pause for remembrance, the master of ceremonies introduces a second group of three to light a candle in honor of those who gave their lives, Ploesti, with a significant pause for remembrance again being observed. The procedure is followed for the Normandie, Northern France, Ardennes, Rhineland, and Central Europe campaigns. Our remembrance is climaxed as the last three men "light this candle in memory of those near and dear whom we have lost since we last met."

ing of the campaigns into lighting of candles.

That first ceremony consisted of Steve at the lectern, reading off the names of the seven campaigns, and Elsa at a special table lighting a candle for each. (She still remembers the color of the dress she wore.) And so it continued from 1958 until 1974, one person at the lectern, and one person lighting all seven candles.

At the Wilmington, NC convention in 1974, the late Bill Robertie, who was president then, and his wife Hazel presented the association with a specially crafted candelabra with holders for eight candles. That year, I was given the privilege of conducting the ceremony, and in addition to dedicating the eighth candle to all of our association family who had passed on since the war, we selected eight individuals to light the candles instead of just one.

By 1980 at Cambridge, we saw the opportunity to extend participation to all groups and headquarters, and we picked two people to light each candle — sixteen in all.

In England in 1983 we further increased the participation to three people per candle as described in Gene Hartley's description above.

This tribute to all our wartime fallen comrades, and to all of our 2nd Air Division Association family whom we have lost since the war, has become a much appreciated demonstration of affection and respect by all who have participated and all who have shared these feelings. There is no doubt that this helps us to say again, "They are not forgotten. We shall not forget." ■

FOLDED WINGS

44th

William H. Strong

93rd

Anthony Grey
Glenn W. Holder

389th

J.C. Colter Dodman

446th

Harold E. Minnick (489th)

448th

Harold J. Benvenuti
John L. Ludden
Albert J. McKinnan

453rd

Richard M. Dean
Walter M. Easdon
George O. Kearney
Bernell M. Ness

458th

James C. Smith
Edwin L. Wilds

466th

Carl E. Mikel
Robert L. Pellican

467th

Willie Thomas

489th

J. Garrett Verplanck
Richard C. Wagner (448th)

491st

Thomas R. Allen
Herbert A. Wright
Robert L. Yelland

492nd

E.W. Clarey

Taps for the "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B"

CLERMONT, FLA — Buck Wrightman, 77, the Army bugler who was the model for the popular World War II song, has died.

Mr. Wrightman had continued to play his bugle in a Lake County honor guard until a couple of years ago, sounding taps for old soldiers who went to their final rest. But it was his wartime bugling more than fifty years ago that caught the imagination of composer Hughie Prince, who heard Mr. Wrightman play. Prince later wrote "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," a hit made popular by the Andrews Sisters and revived in 1973 by performer Bette Midler.

Wrightman was with the Army 129th Infantry, Company B, 33rd Division, and also played in the 8th Air Force Comets Band. "At the time, the 3th Air Force band was rated No. 1 in the ETO, and Glenn Miller second," Mr. Wrightman recalled in an interview a couple of years ago. ■



Open Letter To the 93rd

BY FLOYD H. MABEE

VE DAY RETURN TO HARDWICK REPORT BY TOM PARRY

Sally and I were in Norwich, England in May, 1995 for the Second Air Division reunion and the 50th anniversary of VE Day.

The 93rd Bomb Group people were bussed to the small Topcraft Church, just outside our old air base at Hardwick, for a memorial service with many local people in attendance. The inexperienced organist played a few modern tunes as well as hymns, and the service was touching. Sally admired the earrings of the local lady sitting in front of us and told her so after the service. Later, at Hardwick, the lady presented her with a duplicate pair.

From the church we went to the site of the 93rd BG headquarters at Hardwick, where we were met by a gathering of local people, and some of the younger ones crowded around asking for autographs. I was wearing my World War II leather flying jacket with squadron patch, name and rank, so I was easily spotted as an air crew member. Most of the old timers had outgrown their jackets, worn them out, or let them deteriorate from lack of care.

David Woodrow, the farmer who owns much of the site of the old airfield, had donated land and landscaped it around the monument we dedicated there in 1987. A few of the old buildings are still standing, and one has been made into a museum of WWII relics.

After a light lunch, we boarded two buses and drove to Hempnall, a small village a few miles from the base. With no idea of what to expect, we left the buses a block from the center of town, where a bagpiper escorted us up the gaily decorated main street with villagers applauding on both sides. The highway through town had been blocked off with traffic diverted around the center of town.

Long tables were lined up end to end in the middle of the street, and we were invited to sit down for sandwiches, cakes and tea. Glenn Miller music was playing on the loudspeakers, and some of us danced in the street. The hospitality was overwhelming! The villagers sat with us, asking what we had done at Hardwick during the war, and whether we had visited Hempnall at that time. Children were playing on the street, waving flags, flying toy airplanes, and generally having a great time. It was all so unexpected and warm, and we really enjoyed ourselves.

The buses took us to see what was left of the three runways at Hardwick. Part of one short runway was still there, but the other had disappeared completely. The long north-south runway was still visible, but down to the width of a single lane and evidently used as a road in the past.

Back at the group HQ area, we had a short memorial service at the monument and the flag was lowered to half-mast in honor of the missing. There were few dry eyes by the time it was over. Just before the service, there was a formation flyover of nine civilian light aircraft.

Later, a T-6, painted in wartime colors, made several low passes overhead.

We then visited the museum, organized and operated by two local young men with no financial backing. It included parts of crashed aircraft dug up in the local area, pictures of many of the 93rd B-24s, and other memorabilia from the war. They even had a hand-cranked air raid siren, and the mournful wail still gave me chills.

John Hindle, a local Norwich engineer, took nine of us in his beautifully maintained WWII military personnel carrier to the site of the combat crew officers' quarters. Not much is left of the old site except for the gatehouse, a building next to it that may have housed the gate guard, the water tower for our bathhouse, and the ruins of the officers' club.

As memories flooded in, we talked of the mess hall with its murals, the baseball diamond, the night we watched the German fighter strafe the airfield, and the location of quarters long since gone.

We each must have had our own private thoughts of friends of fifty years ago who did not return and now exist only as names on the Madingley memorial wall. I thought of bicycling out the gate with John Geer for a ride in the countryside to quiet our nerves after a mission. After I left Hardwick, John, returning from a mission with two engines out, ditched his B-24 in the sea just off the English coast. The plane broke in two, and the front end sank, immediately taking John, Henry Segars, the 330th Squadron commander, the crew officers,

as she was always so busy preparing food for our lunch and dinner. She and David wrote me a beautiful thank-you letter for the 93rd's kindness to them at the reunion.

We had a beautiful hospitality room with good attendance most of the time. The fellows brought plenty of good pictures. One of our 93rd associate members, Don Morrison, had a couple of suitcases loaded with pictures and memorabilia. He has been very active and enthusiastic about gathering information about his grandfather's involvement with us. Don is great, and has been a big help.

Paul Steichen has stepped down as 93rd group vice president. He now will be president of the 93rd Bomb Group Association and continue the "Ball of Fire Quarterly Express." Col. Alfred Asch (Ret.) was elected 93rd group vice president and I was elected assistant vice president at our 93rd dinner meeting. While Col. Asch was speaking to members, Evelyn Cohen, 2ADA membership VP, came in and asked to speak to our members. She also surprised me with a beautiful Seiko quartz mantle clock, inscribed on the back "to Floyd Mabee with sincere appreciation, Second Air Division Association." I thanked Evelyn and the association, but couldn't say any more, as I was flabbergasted.

INFORMATION NEEDED

I have been contacted by Blaine Duxbury asking for information about Col. Baker's plane, "Hell's Wench." He wants to build a plastic model of this plane to be placed in the Addison



New 93rd group VP Alfred Asch and his wife Naomi (left), with Jean and David Woodrow

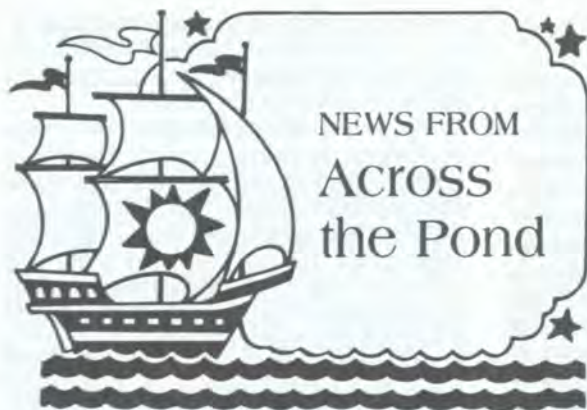
engineer, and radio operator down with it. Upon returning to the HQ area, we had dinner and walked out to a clearing where David Woodrow had prepared a huge pile of brush for the bonfire, called "Beacons of Hope," to be set all over England at 9:00 PM. We welcomed the heat, as well as the spirit, on that chilly evening. Spectacular fireworks followed the bonfire, and we headed back to our hotels emotionally drained, but happy.

2ADA REUNION AT LEXINGTON

We had a great turnout of seventy-two 93rd personnel plus two very wonderful guests, David and Jean Woodrow. We are very fortunate that they own and give such loving care to our old base, Hardwick. The many times that I had attended reunions at Hardwick, I never had the pleasure to really get to know Jean,

E. Baker building at the 180th Fighter Group Ohio Air National Guard at Swanton, Ohio, in honor of Col. Baker. Mr. Duxbury wants to make the plastic model as realistic as possible. He asked if just the name "Hell's Wench" was painted on the nose of the plane, or was there any nose art? Due to the fact that the tail markings have the same call letter, D, as my plane, "Shoot Luke" (328th BS), he wanted to know if there was a slash above, below, or on either side of the "D" under the plane serial number 42-40994. I have copies of the 93rd sortie reports and no slash is shown on either plane, or on any of the planes involved. Perhaps some of you can help.

By the time you see this *Journal*, I will be at my winter address: Floyd H. Mabee, 11524 Zimmerman Road, Port Richey, FL 34668-1559, phone (810) 862-2309. ■



THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY: A VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE.

by David Hastings

Vice Chairman of the Memorial Trust

Just how can we in Norfolk and Suffolk ever thank all of you in the 2nd Air Division Association enough for coming back to join us this year for the VE Day celebrations, and as always you have returned home leaving us with wonderful memories that will stay with us and our children for the rest of our lives.

The excitement began on that wonderful morning when the team of couriers from the Memorial Trust met you at the two London airports. It was so good to see all your faces again — you had come back once more.

On Saturday, May 6th, it was wonderful to have the rededication of your unique and living 2nd Air Division Memorial Room in the temporary Norwich Central Library at Glasswells' old building in Ber Street and to see that you were so delighted with all the hard work put in by the library team and the trust, for as before your room is friendly, welcoming, and a place of peace, still living up to the original words of General Kepner. Norwich loves the new temporary library, and it and your Memorial are already heavily used.

Sunday, May 7th, was of course the highlight of the week, the main reason for coming, to reenact the 1945 parade, and what a day it turned out to be. The sun shone from a clear blue sky as the 950 British and American veterans assembled on the Bethel Street car park in front of the burned out shell of the library and we came under the watchful eye of the parade warrant officer, the station warrant officer from RAF Coltishall W/O David Batchelor. The band from the Royal Air Force College Cranwell played for the enjoyment of the huge crowd already assembled, and then at exactly 10:00 am, 41 Squadron of the Royal Air Force provided the fly-past in tribute to the veterans — the only city in the UK to receive such a privilege. This was followed by the very moving address for the Lord Mayor of Norwich and then we were on our way, with the British squadrons led by the Cranwell Band and the 2nd Air Division led by the Norwich Citadel Salvation Army Band, with the salute being taken by the Lord Mayor of Norwich on the steps of City Hall, flanked by Group Captain

Nick Rusling from RAF Coltishall, Colonel Albert J. Shower of the 467th, and Lord Ironside. No one who marched that day will ever forget the warmth of the crowds lining the route all the way to the cathedral. In all my years of marching in my city, I have never known such cheering, applause and waving, and it got even louder as the 2nd Air Division approached.

At the cathedral we entered through the parade of standards, including the RAF Bomber Command Standard, which was paraded especially in your honour, instead of being in London, and exactly at 11:20 am, the Lord Bishop of Norwich greeted the Queen's representative, The Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk, Timothy Colman, and the Lord Mayor. The two national standards were laid on the altar and the fanfare sounded, and what a combination we had with the magnificent organ and the Salvation Army band. The service itself was so moving and once again your "Fanfare to the 2nd Air Division," composed by Ken Meazey, had us all in tears. (Ken has kindly arranged for this to be recorded, and I will shortly be sending Bud Koorndyk the master for use in the USA.)

After the service you were all entertained by the Lord Mayor in St. Andrews Hall before returning to our three hotels for a rest at 3:00 pm. The day ended with that unbelievable "We'll Meet Again" show by Bob Brister and his great local cast at the Norwich Theatre Royal, when we all relived the sounds, scenes and songs of the forties — what a show indeed — and how about the applause when Evelyn Cohen's picture appeared on the screen. How can we ever thank Evelyn enough for making this week possible. The show overran, but who cared — it was such a great end to a truly wonderful day that we will never forget.

Monday was the Base Day, and I have heard nothing but praise for all the programmes arranged by the group VPs and their village contacts. I know that at Rackheath we had a great time and got home late because we were enjoying ourselves so much, especially as Ken Meazey played for us.

Tuesday was the touring day, and we were blessed with fine weather. The Broads tour had three ships, and it was great to go down river to Horning Village and the Blickling Hall tour also had fun, but we needed that rest day.

Then on Wednesday, you had your own very moving private service at the American Cemetery at Madingley near Cambridge, a chance to say farewell and pay tribute to those 6,700 members of the 2nd Air Division who gave their lives so that we could enjoy our freedom today. Thank you again for allowing us as couriers to join you on that day. From Madingley we split into three groups, some returning home direct, some going on a tour of Cambridge, and the third

group going to Duxford after lunch at that amazing Chilford Hall. Who was the member of the 2nd Air Division who on riding the simulator was heard to cry out, "I've got him!" as he shot down a Spitfire? Memories that will last forever.

On your final day, Thursday, many of you so kindly gave up your morning to go and talk to 23 Norfolk schools, and from the comments already received, this was deeply appreciated. In the evening we had your farewell banquet at the Norwich Sports Village, and once again Evelyn excelled herself with the superb organisation. The Jonathan Wyatt Big Band played "Glenn Miller style," and we are all so proud that you received a telegram of greeting from Her Majesty the Queen — I doubt if any other U.S. Air Force Association had that. As locals we were deeply touched by the speeches and especially the thanks from Chuck Walker and Jordan Uttal. So at 10:15 pm it was all over, a truly unique week and one that we will never forget, thanks to your kindness in traveling thousands of miles to be with us on the fiftieth anniversary of VE Day. Let us hope that many of us will meet again at the opening of the new Norwich Central Library and the enlarged 2nd Air Division USAAF Memorial Room — WE'LL MEET AGAIN. ■

THANKS FROM NORWICH

Can we express through the *Journal* our very sincere thanks to all of the 2nd Air Division Association members who attended the 48th annual convention at Lexington for your great kindness, friendship and hospitality — you are a truly great family and it was wonderful to be with you once again.

We thought that Lexington was one of the best conventions we had attended, and our thanks to Evelyn Cohen for making it all possible.

We were so pleased on behalf of the Memorial Trust in Norwich to have the opportunity to speak to the executive committee, the business meeting, the Heritage League, and finally the banquet, so that you could hear of the great challenges and opportunities that face your unique and living Memorial.

Also how wonderful it was to relive that memorable VE WEEK thanks to the amazing Dzenowagis film. Certainly that was an occasion that will never be repeated nor forgotten.

Your Memorial Trust pledges that we will see that your Memorial is rebuilt even better than before, and thank you all again for being so kind to us. As always, you have left us with happy memories that will last forever.

God bless you.

Yours sincerely,
David and Jean Hastings ■

There is very little news of a general nature to report at this time. Just about everything of interest was covered either in my September Newsletter #16 or in the Summer and Fall *Journals*. You will recall that the newsletter asked for those able to do so to make a contribution to the WAC Endowment Fund. I am extending the time for contributions for a couple of weeks after this *Journal* is mailed. So if you have forgotten to send a check to me, now is the time! Also, remember to send in the sheet enclosed in the last newsletter with information about you and interesting events that I can publish in the newsletter and the *Journal*.

Now for some information about a few more of our members — some new members and some members from the very early years. The following is quoted from a letter from **GEORGE C. DUDLEY**:

"My life has gone so fast. It seems impossible that it was my experience to serve the bank where I was employed long enough to qualify for the 50 year club of the Missouri Bankers Association...I married in 1948. We have a son, who is a CPA. He lives close by with his family...Our daughter also lives close by. She is a branch manager of a Kansas City bank...We like to run from the cold weather. It is likely that we will head for Florida sometime after the 20th (of January) for five or six weeks...We hope to see Woody Middleton and his wife sometime this year. They are 'bird watchers' and go 'birding' from time to time. Woody and his wife came to Kansas City while he was editor of the Roanoke newspaper. They were attending a meeting of the Associated Press. He called Margie, my wife, and she invited them out for dinner. They have recently sold the family home, at the same time moving to a condo. After retiring, Woody wrote a book on the history of Salem, VA." George worked in the AG Section at HQ, and Woody was in the QM Section.

And now some information about **JORDAN R. UTTAL**: "I returned, after the war, to my career in the cheese business, having started part time in 1931 and beginning full time in 1935. I worked as a sales and marketing executive for two companies in my entire career, retiring from the second one in 1980. Since then, I have kept up my activities for the 2nd Air Division Association, did consulting work for six years until my wife died, enjoyed golfing until my knee surgery in 1990, kept up traveling, and in general, have watched the years go by, convinced that I have led a blessed life, and being very thankful for the start my parents gave me, and for the friends, in business, school, and 2ADA, who have enriched my life. I am proud of the fact that my industry has installed me in their Hall of Fame, and am honored to have been elected by 2ADA as Honorary President, and by the Trust as Honorary Life Governor. I came to HQ fresh from the USA in June 1943 as Asst. Statistical Control Officer, reporting to Lew Oldham. In February 1944, because we at Statistical Control were not getting bomb-fall information from Intelligence (Photo) to prepare accuracy information for General Hodges, I was made Photo Officer, charged

DIVISION



BY RAY STRONG

with the responsibility of improving photo coverage. That done, in November 1944 I returned to Statistical Control to replace Lew Oldham, who left for another assignment, and served as Division Statistical Control Officer until we went home in 1945. In both sections, I met a lot of great people who made me look good on many occasions. I am proud of the work I did, and equally proud to have served with such a great bunch of Americans. The work I was most proud of were the bombing accuracy studies which were of help to Operations and to Command...Could there have been anything more memorable than spotting a beautiful lady working at Horsham St. Faith as assistant to the Red Cross Field Director. Our first date took place six weeks

"The barracks took a direct hit, but there was no personal injury . . . The bomb struck on a Saturday at midnight, the one time during the week that no self-respecting weatherman would be in."

after I arrived — 17 months later we married at the City Hall in Norwich, and had 41 and a half wonderful years together until her death in June 1986. We shared many interesting and exciting adventures together in our free time around England and Wales." *Ed.: And, of course, all of us in 2ADA thank Jordan for his almost fifty years of service to our association.*

HARLAN M. SMITH was in the Weather Section at HQ, forecasting upper air winds. He writes, "I enlisted in the Army Air Forces meteorology program in the summer of '42, right out of college and just ahead of a low draft number. We were commissioned in May '43, and by September I was in England. My first station there was Atcham, in Shropshire, which was a training base for replacement P-47 pilots. In early '44 I was moved to 8th Fighter Command HQ at Bushey Hall, just north of London, where General Kepner was at the time. Their Weather Group had formed an upper air section to put more emphasis on wind forecasting as missions went deeper into Germany, and that's where I was put. After eight or ten months I was transferred to Ketteringham, possibly at about the time General Kepner went there, to do the same work I had been doing. In May '45 a number were flown back to the States to be ready for the Pacific if needed. Happily, VJ Day came during my home leave and by September I was out and ready to start grad school... Grad school meant getting my Ph.D. in physical chemistry at the University of Chicago, living in the same dorm where we had been cadets three years before. By 1949 I was here in New Jersey doing research for Exxon,

which I did until I retired in 1985. My wife Nancy is a retired French teacher who remembers vividly the problems of the wartime home-front. Our three sons have not had to think much about military service, thanks in part, at least, to what the 2nd Air Division and others did fifty years ago...It is difficult to pick out just one or two of the interesting and memorable events of my time in England. Certainly one would be the sightseeing plane trip right after VE Day across Belgium, northeastern France, then along the Rhine from Ludwigshafen to Cologne, and finally across Belgium again, all at 2,000 feet or less. I can still see the castles along the Rhine, the Remagen Bridge, the cathedral standing amid the rubble at Cologne, and the number of huge strangely speckled fields in Germany, which turned out, as we got closer, to be fence-to-fence German prisoners standing, sitting, or lying there in the open waiting for the next step in the surrender process...Another memory illustrates the life of the weathermen. I asked one man who had been stationed near London longer than I had if any weather people had been hurt in the bombing. The only bomb damage he knew about was to his own barracks. It took a direct hit and was destroyed, but there was no personal injury.

This was surprising to me, since at any time of day or night there was always somebody in the sack, somebody just coming off shift, or somebody getting ready for the next shift. (Weather barracks never did too well in inspections.) The answer? The bomb struck on a Saturday at midnight, the one time during the week that no self-respecting weatherman would be in."

I'll bet that most of you didn't know that **EDWARD E. NEWTON** was your postmaster while you were stationed at HQ. Actually, he was part of the Adjutant General's Section, although we saw very little of him. Ed was assigned to the 598th Army Postal Unit attached to the station hospital at Wymondham. After the war, he stayed in the active reserve for 25 years in various units. As a civilian, he returned to work in the U.S. Postal Service until 1978, when he retired with 41 and a half years of postal service. He finished his postal service as postmaster. He started traveling prior to retirement and has continued ever since. He has traveled all over the world and is interested in the way other people live. While at HQ Ed and his unit gave postal service not only to HQ but to several wings and groups as well. One memorable event which he remembers was attending a horse race at Cambridge. The entire race was on a straightaway.

That is all I have for this issue of the *Journal*. It may be a little early, but I wish for each of you and yours a very merry holiday season and a happy New Year. (And don't forget to send me a check for the WAC Endowment and also the sheet with some information about you and your experiences.) ■



BY H.C. "PETE" HENRY

Will Lundy (67th SQ) reports that they had about twenty-three 44thers at Shipdham 1 May 1995 for the VE Day celebration. John Page, our English representative for the 44th, accompanied the group out to the base. Will said they had a great reception at Arrow Air Services and later went into the town of Shipdham where Don Dodd, another of our English friends, had arranged a welcome barbeque dinner with the people of Shipdham. The celebration there seemed to be more for the kids, and over 400 youngsters were present. Will said that Nigel Wright, owner of Arrow Air Services, wants to add a room to be used as a 44th mini museum. Mr. Rix, former owner of the property where General Johnson's headquarters was located, passed away and I believe the property has a new owner. There is some talk about moving the walls with the old WWII paintings on them to Arrow Air Services to help build the new room. I understand they have a way of moving the walls intact without breaking them up. This will be a real coup if it can be accomplished.

I received a nice letter from Mrs. Anthony (Lois) P. Cianci, thanking me for the information I sent to her from Will Lundy's "44th Bomb Group Roll of Honor and Casualties" pertaining to the 44th BG mission of 21 January 1944. As a result of same, she talked by phone to Milton Rosenblatt (68th SQ) and August Smanietto (68th SQ) and they both gave her a vivid description of that day and insights about her father Claire P. Shaeffer, who was killed on this mission. She later advised that she spoke with Andrew Ross, another member of the crew. Now Abraham Teitel, from Brooklyn, NY, is the only one left to be found from Sobatka's crew.

James B. Barber, 1214 Keffield Street, Roanoke, VA 24019, would like to hear from any lead crew member who flew thirty missions and received the DFC. Please provide details. He has been told that he can obtain the DFC if he can get five letters from former crew members who accomplished this feat.

Art Hand, 517 Elm Street, Paris, IL 61944 has available a complete roster of 44th BG members for \$10.00 including postage.

In the December 1994 *Journal* there was an article about the "Ploesti Fliers Wall" by Dick Byers of the 376th Heavy Bombardment Group who was hoping to construct it in Liberal, Kansas. He requested that donations be

sent to me which I would forward to Dick. In February 1995, Dick wrote to advise that the 376th and the 44th were the only groups that showed any interest in the wall and that he was going to return all the monies collected, and I followed suit. Now in July, he wrote advising that the 376th was going ahead with the wall, but I'm afraid it's too late for the 44th to participate. One 44ther whose money was returned was Ed Mikolowski (66/67/14th CBW) who made the donation in memory of his friend and roommate (at Shipdham) and hero, Tom Schrivner, who went down over Ploesti on his 25th mission. Tom and over half of his crew were from Ed's original "Jenny" crew that flew over from Grenier Field in September '42. Tom took over as aircraft commander from James Kahl (66th SQ) and they flew 15 missions together until the Kiel raid of 14 May '43, which decimated the 67th Squadron. To help with the rebuilding of the 67th Squadron, Ed, Bob Kolliner (66/67 SQ) and Dave Arnold (66/67 SQ) were transferred over from the 66th Squadron. Ed was reluctant to make the move because he was such a close friend of Tom's, but



Left side: Roy Owen, "Lolly" Owen, Al Brown- ing, Irene Lundy, and Norm Linville.



Right side: Mary Henry, Dick Butler, ??, Mike Fusano, and Kaye Fusano.

Tom urged him to transfer because it meant an advancement for Ed to 67th squadron navigator. Walter Patrick (66th SQ), Walter "Buzz" Hazelton (66th SQ) and Ed are the sole survivors of the original crew.

We had about twenty-four 44thers at the 2ADA convention in Lexington, KY, 3-6 July '95, and shown below are a couple of photographs of our group at the awards dinner, which was held in a large tent.

At our group meeting, yours truly was re-elected 44th BG vice president for another year. My thanks again to those of you who were present and to the others who feel that I am worthy of the position.

Donald E. "Roscoe" Turner (66th SQ) sent a letter earlier in the year indicating just how interested the people around Shipdham are in the 2ADA, and he enclosed an article from a local newspaper. The article was written by a Mr. Peter W. Soanes, Church Street, Wangford, and reads as follows:

"Walking past the blackened shell of the Norwich Central Library, I realised it is now six months since the tragic destruction of this building, including the 2AD Memorial.

"While I am sure much work has been put in, especially by the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division USAAF, to getting things right this time, especially in regard to fire precautions, I cannot help feeling that if this situation had existed in the States, a new building would now be in course of construction.

"Come on, officialdom, get cracking and show something is happening before the arrival of American veterans this summer."

Yvonne Maule, the widow of Donald Maule (67th SQ) wrote in March, "I received the video of Diamond Lil, watched it and was so impressed, I'd like to have four more copies if I can get them. I have been trying to gather books, videos, pictures and whatever I can about that part of my husband's life. I have five grandsons who would each like to have all of it. My goal is to try to have one really impressive thing for each one, but I know each one would want this video. My six year old grandson told me he would like to have Grandpa's medals and he would guard them all his life. I'm glad they feel that way." She now has five copies.

Art Hand (66th SQ) sent me a list of 44thers he has found using the phone-disc system. On the list were the following deceased members. Where known, squadron and year deceased is shown: George W. Haag, Benjamin D. Ford (68th SQ), Morton R. Taylor 1970, Aldo P. Lavallo 9/94, William J. Murphy (66th SQ) 10/93, Elbert L. Dukate 4/86. Lois Cianci sent word that Andrew Ross (68th SQ) passed away 2/95. Our condolences to all of these families.

This issue of the *Journal* should reach you some time in November/December, so Mary and I would like to wish you all Seasons Greetings and Best Wishes for a Healthy and Happy New Year. ■

The 448th Speaks



BY CATER LEE

The four-day 448th Bomb Group Association reunion in Norwich and Seething was, simply put, outstanding.

Around two hundred 448th veterans and family members were in attendance, and an estimated crowd of four to five hundred were at the ceremony at the Seething tower, with Old Glory proudly waving as she did fifty years ago.

A welcome and introduction was given by Dick Wickham, chairman of the Control Tower Association. Short addresses were given by James Hoseason, honorary president of the Control Tower Association; Brian Coleman, chairman of the Waveny Flying Group; Mr. Arthur Cuff, representing the Arnold Association for the RAF veterans; and myself for the 448th Bomb Group Association. The RAF veterans won their pilot's wings in the USA in WWII. Prayer was given by Robert (Bubba) Lee, my eldest son.

The national anthems of both countries were played by tape with an honor guard of the USAF personnel stationed at a nearby American air base. Several wreaths were laid by various organizations.

A "poppy drop" by an old WWII plane flying over made a perfect drop, and most everyone got one to bring home for a souvenir.

A fish and chips lunch was served by our English hosts, with lots of pies, cakes, and other goodies cooked by the lovely English ladies. No one went away hungry!

Prior to the ceremony, the British and Americans lined up to march a short distance to chairs provided for the veterans. The Yanks had some difficulty understanding the cadence given by one of the RAF veterans and there was a noticeable difference in the quality of the marching, but we all got to the chairs, even if it wasn't very pretty. We all laughed at ourselves.

On Saturday, church services were held at the ancient Village Church. An estimated forty or so young British children, ages five to seven, marched down the aisle carrying small U.S. and British flags and drawing loud applause. After taking their seats, they gave a near perfect rendition of several songs, starting with one which got my attention, about Alabama — I liked that!!

The church service was followed by the laying of a wreath at the 448th memorial in the churchyard. Then a brief visit was made to the infamous Mermaid Pub, where we partook

of some beverages and mingled with the locals. This was indeed enjoyable.

A memorial service and visit to the American Airmen's Cemetery consisted of a wreath-laying and a eulogy given by Leroy Engdahl.

We were blessed by relatively cool weather and clouds as we visited the Wall of the Missing and looked for loved ones' graves.

Lunch was "on your own" and then a trip was made to Duxford to look over WWII aircraft of Britain and the U.S.A. as well as some German ones. On Saturday night a formal banquet was held at the Hotel Norwich with about fifty guests made up of British "Friends of the 448th" who had worked so long and hard to make our visit a success (and that would be putting it mildly). We wish to express our sincere thanks and gratitude to all who had any part in putting on such a great program and welcoming to us 448th veterans, our wives and family members who were fortunate enough to have attended this wonderful event. We will never forget you wonderful people. Please come and see us in Savannah, Georgia next August, 1996.

We had just a short time to get over our trip to England before we were off to beautiful San Diego, California, where our annual state-side reunion was held September 7, 8, 9 & 10, and where we voted some changes to our organization structure. Our members in San Diego voted the following:

We now have a president of the 448th Bomb Group Association and two vice presidents, and one vice president to the 2nd Air Division Association.

For the 1996 year, I was re-elected as president; George Dupont and Leroy Engdahl were elected vice presidents for the 448th BGA; and Charles McBride was elected vice president to the 2ADA.

Our tours in San Diego consisted of a visit to an aircraft carrier, a narrated scenic tour of San Diego which included Coronado Island, past the famous Del Coronado Hotel built in 1887, Balboa Park, the Gaslamp area and a one hour harbor excursion. We then made a visit south of the border to Tijuana for a sightseeing tour which included lunch and shopping.

(continued on page 18)

PALLAS ATHENE, THE GI JANE



Pretty girls always attracted a crowd of GI's at Wendling, as attested by the above photo of the christening of Pallas Athene, the GI Jane.

The date was February 2, 1944, and a bevy of WACs from Second Air Division Headquarters were on hand for the occasion. Shown holding the brush is Emmy Utter and on her left is Hazel Bliss. Utter's present address is not known, but Hazel lives in Portland, Oregon, and attends 2ADA reunions.

Pallas Athene, the Greek goddess of war, was the icon for the Women's Army Air Corps (WAC).

GI Jane was assigned to the 578th, and the pilot of the crew that flew her was Capt. Neely Young. Young and four other crew members are still alive: Capt. John Goodwin, copilot; 1st Lt. Ray Dunphy, navigator; S/Sgt. Ray Teater, waist gunner; and S/Sgt. John Rickey, tail gunner. Ground crew chief was T/Sgt. Lowell Hale, now living in Iowa. Also in the ground crew was Cpl. Harry Kruse.

The Young crew completed their tour in GI Jane, flying 19 missions without an abort. The unofficial inventory of 392nd aircraft lists GI Jane as #42-100187, credited with 43 sorties, and salvaged on May 29, 1945. ■

458th BOMB GROUP



BY RICK ROKICKI

I plan to cover only two topics in this *Journal* column. Both are extremely important to our group, and it is my sincere hope that there will be a great response. The entire group has always responded well in the past, particularly when I've asked for a monetary donation (Dayton memorial, library shelves, 458th Group History III, etc.)

SPECIAL INDIVIDUAL ENDOWMENT PROGRAM

I feel badly that I have been slow in getting around to recommending strongly that we of the 458th take positive action to support this worthwhile program. The endowment program has been in operation since 1983. Very simply, it permits a *group or individual* to establish, for a minimum of \$1,000, a permanent endowment to provide books annually, in perpetuity for the 2AD Memorial Room in Norwich. The *group or individual* is the donor, and the donation may be in memory or in honor of a group of people or any individual. Here is how it works:

(a) A separate fund is set up within the capital fund of the trust in the name of the donor, and the interest from each such fund goes to buy books in the name of the donor in honor of whomever the donor specifies.

(b) All such individual funds are invested in the "Charities Official Investment Fund" (COIF), selected by the Board of Governors because of its favorable income record.

(c) The annual interest earned by each account is used to purchase books for the Memorial. The donor is advised annually of the amount of interest earned, and the title(s) of the book(s) purchased.

(d) You may specify anyone you choose as the honoree: a war comrade, a friend, a member of the family, a group, a squadron, etc. A bookplate is placed in each book so purchased, indicating the name of the donor and the name of the honoree.

(e) Additions to the individual or group fund can be made at any time, preferably in the minimum amount of £100 (pounds sterling).

As of now, almost twenty individuals have joined this program, as have the following nine groups: HQ, 44th, 389th, 445th, 448th, 467th, John Conrad on behalf of the 392nd, the Heritage League, and the Friends of the 2AD Memorial. In addition, as of the Lexington convention, the WAC detachment proudly joined this list by raising \$1,100.

I think we of the 458th should get with the program. Let's start right now to raise a minimum of \$1,000 for an endowment from the 458th Bomb Group in honor of all who served with the 458th BG, Horsham St. Faith, 1944-45. Please send your checks in whatever amount you can afford, made out to me. I will accumulate them and when the goal is reached, I will send a check made out to the 2ADA to Bud Koorndyk, who will set up the endowment with the Board of Governors. I will keep you posted in future columns as to how we are doing. Let's proudly become part of this program as a group, and any individual who chooses to, can come aboard.

We are off to a good start: When Bob Vincent sent me the fifteen tea towels to sell and use the profits for the library, I mentioned that I planned to start this program in the next *Journal* column. I sent B/Gen. Robert W. Vincent a check for \$75.00, and by return mail, he sent me a check for \$100.00 to start up the program. I have matched his donation — now we need the balance from the remaining 765 members in our group. I sincerely hope that we will be the next bomb group to add to this worthwhile program.

RENEWAL OF 458TH MEMBERSHIP DUES

It's the same problem every year: Up to fifty members just do not respond to the 2ADA dues notice sent by Evelyn Cohen. A second notice follows after the next *Journal* stating that the member will be dropped for non-payment of dues. Finally, every group VP gets that dreaded letter that gives the names of group members who are to be dropped. Once again, the group VP goes into high gear and spends \$15-\$20 in stamps for a third renewal notice. Why should this be necessary? I must tell you that I go through this every year. This year there were 45 who didn't respond. Last year there were 48, and the year before, 43. Since Ceil and I do the association's computer work, I see that almost 500 names appeared on the original "drop sheet" for all fourteen bomb groups and Headquarters. So you see, the problem is universal with all group members. We proceed to drop the names as we get them from Evelyn, but before we do this, we allow time for the group VPs to get their letters out. I wrote 45 personal letters to our group members who didn't renew. The average loss is 35 names from the 14 groups plus Headquarters. Of the 45 in the 458th, we learned that four had passed away, one was in a nursing home with Alzheimer's, there were eighteen renewals — *and there were 22 who did not respond*. Of those 22, there were at least eight who have been members from four to ten years. It's a continuing problem and I wish I could come up with a solution. Admittedly, the problem is increasing as we grow older. In the last three years that I've kept these records for the 458th, we had 45, 48, and 43 who were on original "drop lists." To sum it up: Please help the association and save us additional postage costs by renewing your membership promptly when you get your dues notice from for 1996. Of course, for all those who have become *lifetime members*, the above is of absolutely no consequence.

MYSTERY STAMP PERSON

As I was finishing this column, the postman delivered another letter from the MSP, containing the usual mix of stamps I've received in the past. So, if you get a response letter from me and you notice a multi-stamped letter, you know those stamps were sent by the MSP. Again, "someday . . ."

Ceil and I are off to Hawaii for one of my granddaughter's 14th birthday. Aloha and Mahalo! ■

THE 448TH SPEAKS (continued from page 17)

Several stayed extra days to take in the famous San Diego Zoo and Sea World, as well as other sites in this beautiful city known for its great climate.

San Antonio, Texas was selected as our 1997 reunion site. The dates are not firm, but will likely be during the first two weeks of April (because of price, and the weather is nice at that time as well).

Leroy Engdahl will drive to San Antonio in the near future to look over the four or five of the most favorable quotes, and together he and I will make a selection about dates, prices, etc. in time for our group reunion at Savannah in August 1996, if not sooner. We hope to have a General Air Force Officer to speak at our Saturday banquet. San Antonio is full of them.

Remember, the 8th AF Heritage Museum invites each group to display any memorabilia they wish to donate, with acknowledgement for each donor. To date, we have only three offers — a complete officer's uniform reportedly in excellent shape, an A-2 jacket and leather squadron emblems, and a 1940 *Life* magazine featuring Churchill on the cover along with a pilot's B-24 training manual. We need anyone wishing to make donations to write to Leroy Engdahl at 1785 Wexford Drive, Vidor, TX 77662, stating what you would like to donate and the condition of the item. Thanks!

Next August the 448th will be at Savannah, Georgia, for a visit to the new 8th Air Force Heritage Museum. Remember also that if you would like to attend the opening ceremonies in May and you want a reservation at the Hyatt Regency at our special price, please let me know as soon as possible.

Have a healthy and happy 1996! ■



392nd B.G.

BY OAK MACKEY

Some Dim Wit said, "The reason people sweat is so they won't catch fire when making love."

You received your copy of the Fall *Journal* in August. The 48th annual convention of the 2ADA in Lexington, Kentucky was held July 3-6. The cut-off date for articles and reports for that Fall issue was in June. So, now in November you are receiving your first news of the Lexington convention. The Marriott Griffin Gate Resort was the locale for this most gala event. The staff there treated us to some good Kentucky hospitality, the food and service was excellent, and we of the 392nd had a real good time. The total 392nd attendance was 75, and of that number, 18 were attending their very first 2ADA convention. We always like to welcome first-timers with some special attention, so here are their names: Wally & Loraine Blackburn, Bill & Marge Braddock, Harvey & Betty Devoe; John, Fern & Stephanie Goodwin; Jim & Reba Hoover; Ed Janak; Arlo & June Jones; John & Rose Rickey; and Neely & Sharon Young. Now, did I make any errors in this list of names, or did I leave anyone out? If so, my profound apologies — and write me so I can make the appropriate correction in the next *Journal*.

The five living members of the crew of "Pallas Athene, G.I. Jane" met once again at Lexington. They were Neely Young, pilot; John Goodwin, copilot; Ray Dunphy, navigator; Ray Teater, waist gunner; and John Rickey, tail gunner. You may recall "Pallas Athene, G.I. Jane" was so named in honor of the Women's Army Corps (see page 17).

The 392nd Bomb Group Memorial Association held their annual meeting in conjunction with the 2ADA in Lexington. For brevity and efficiency, the 392nd BG, 2ADA, business meeting was combined with the 392nd BGMA business meeting. In my brief report, I outlined the progress in restoring the Memorial Room in Norwich, noting that the temporary library is open for business, and the financial status of the 2ADA is sound. You will find complete reports on these items elsewhere in this *Journal*, written by the appropriate persons. Col. Gilbert placed my name in nomination as a candidate for 392nd BG vice president. No other candidate was nominated, so you are stuck with me for another term. Jim Goar will report on the business affairs of the 392nd BGMA in the "News." However, there is one other item I must mention, so, listen up! The Florida regional dinner will be at the Clarion Hotel, Saturday, February 3, 1996, in Orlando, Florida. For more information contact Lawrence G. Gilbert, Chairman, 1482 Granville Drive, Winter Park, FL 32789, phone (407) 647-2623.

I must close this dissertation on the Lexington convention on a very sad note. Someone "borrowed" a folder of *Yank* magazines from the hospitality room where Ernie Barber displayed the 392nd BG memorabilia. We don't know who took the folder, but there are suspects. Please, whoever you are, return the *Yank* magazines — no questions asked, no charges filed. Send to: Ernest Barber, 5726 Thomson Hwy, Lincolnton, GA 30817.

The following information was sent to me in a letter from J. Franklin Gallion, nephew of F/O Frank Gallion. He is seeking information from anyone who can assist him in learning exactly why his uncle crashed into the Zuider Zee during an air battle with German fighters over Holland on November 3, 1943. The 392nd BG was on this mission to Wilhemshaven, their sixth combat mission.

On February 10, 1995, the remains of a Republic P-47 were recovered from the Zuider Zee in Holland. In the cockpit were the skeletal remains of F/O Frank Donovan Gallion, who was with the 4th Fighter Group, 334th Fighter Squadron. On November 3, 1943, this fighter group was flying a bomber escort mission and the target was Wilhemshaven. There was an air battle with German fighters over Holland, and likely, F/O Gallion was shot down. He has been listed as "missing in action" for 52 years, and now his family knows with some certainty what happened to him. He has finally been laid to rest with the dignity he so richly deserves.



F/O FRANK DONOVAN GALLION

For over twenty years, his nephew, J. Franklin Gallion, has researched the archives of the USAAF, and located and talked with other 4th Fighter Group pilots who were on this mission. He has communicated as well with various veterans' organizations, trying to learn all he can about his uncle. Also, he is trying to build a complete history of this mission. So, all you old-timers of the 392nd BG who flew this mission to Wilhemshaven on November

3, 1943, please write to J. Franklin Gallion, 1482 Secrest Road, Wooster, Ohio 44691, phone (216) 264-2236, and give him any information you have. I have already sent him a copy of page 12 from *Liberators from Wendling* on which there is a report of the Wilhemshaven mission. It is indeed refreshing to know that there are young men out there who are interested in keeping alive the things we did in World War II.

The opening ceremonies of the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, Georgia will be held on May 13 & 14, 1996. The ceremonies on the 13th are open only to 8th AF veterans and their families, and on the 14th the general public is invited. Evelyn Cohen has reserved 100 rooms at the Savannah Hyatt Regency for the 2ADA, and she will make reservations there for you. Look for more detailed information in the center of this *Journal*.

The museum is looking for memorabilia suitable for display, and money to defray start-up expenses. Mary Beth Barnard is the director of history and archives at the museum, and you should communicate with her if you have memorabilia to donate. Mary Beth is also a 445th BG historian and associate member of the 2ADA, and she is also the editor of the *Heritage Herald*, the newsletter of the 2AD Heritage League. The 8th AF Heritage Museum address is P.O. Box 1992, Savannah, GA 31402, phone 1-800-421-9428 or (912) 748-8888 (includes fax). You may also become a member of the 8th AF Heritage Museum. Call or write for a membership application form. Annual dues are \$20.00, and you will receive quarterly issues of *The Mighty Eighth Heritage*.

You should receive this issue of the *Journal* in November 1995. At about the same time, you will receive your 1996 dues notice from Evelyn Cohen. Line 1 of the notice is for your annual dues (\$15.00 — what a bargain!) Line 2 is for donations to our Memorial Room in Norwich. In all candor, money is not a major problem there. Line 3 is for donations to the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum. Your donation can and will make a difference here, whether it's \$5.00 or \$500.00. Think about it. This is a heritage museum to keep alive the memory of the Mighty Eighth Air Force for all time. Let's make sure it is a success. After everything is in place and they are selling admission tickets, it will be self-supporting. To pay start-up expenses, your donations will help. Please be generous!

Elsewhere in this *Journal* you will find a "Report on the Memorial Trust" by E. Bud Koorndyk. Bud is the 2ADA representative on the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust, and within his article you will find the most definitive information on the rebuilding of our new Memorial Room, and news about the temporary library.

That's all I have for this time, good friends. If you have information, or want information, please write or call. Adios! ■

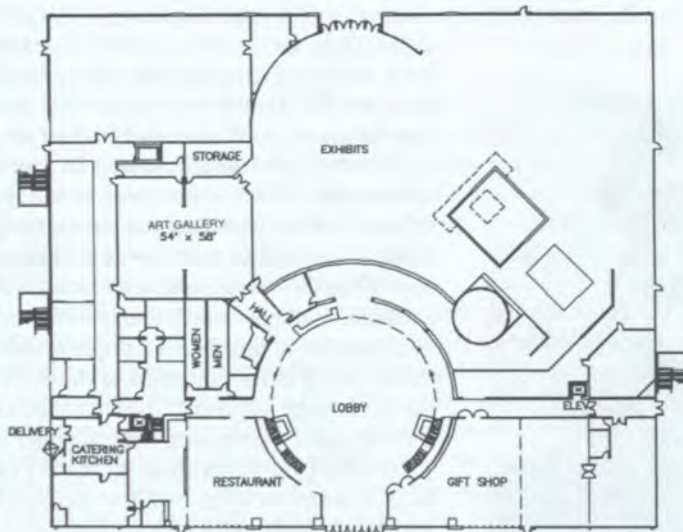
MIGHTY 8TH AIR FORCE HERITAGE M

Grand Opening – 13 May 19

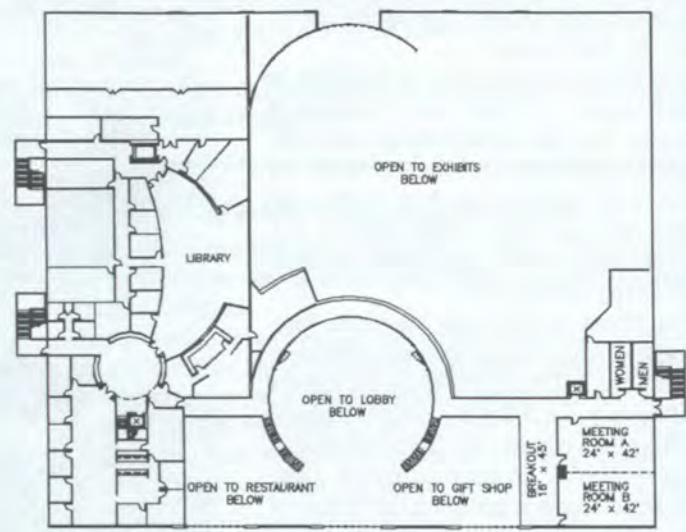
The Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum, Inc. was created to build, maintain and operate into perpetuity a living memorial to the men and women who served with the United States "Mighty Eighth" Air Force. The memorial will consist of a nationally recognized museum and historical repository whereby serious study and casual informational research may be performed by the general public using the latest technology. The Center is committed to the educational

needs of the nation's youth and will offer programs that stimulate the youth to strive to become active contributing citizens. The Center will be a major tourist attraction, meeting and convention center, offering activities that will educate, entertain, and motivate all who enter. The Center will accurately display, exhibit and portray the sacrifices, daily activities, and accomplishments of all segments of the "Mighty Eighth" Air Force team without glorifying the horrors of war.

Heritage Museum Floor Plans



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

The grand opening will consist of two days of events. The first day, May 13, 1996, will be devoted to an open house for Eighth Air Force veterans and their families. The morning of the 14th will be reserved for a brief ceremony opening the facility to the public. Specific plans for the two days will be provided later. Don't delay — make your reservations today!



E MUSEUM SOON TO BE A REALITY!

1996 – Savannah, Georgia

Evelyn Cohen has reserved 100 rooms for the 2nd Air Division Association at the **Hyatt Riverfront Hotel** at \$95 per night plus 11% tax. This is the only hotel she is making arrangements with. You may make a reservation at the Hyatt through her, or you may make reservations on your own at one of the additional hotels listed below. Evelyn is also planning a Cocktail Party for all 2ADA attendees, regardless of hotel, on **Sunday, May 12**.

The following hotels must have arrangements made by individuals or individual groups:



A.	Hilton	15 East Liberty Street	\$73.00 + 11% tax	912-232-9000
B.	Marriott	100 General McIntosh Blvd	\$75.00 + 11% tax	912-233-7722
C.	Ramada Inn	Pooler, Georgia	\$40.00 + 11% tax	912-748-6464
D.	Mulberry	601 East Bay Street	\$96.00 + 11% tax	912-238-1200
E.	Days Inn	201 West Bay Street	\$58.00 + 11% tax	912-236-1024
F.	Comfort Inn	Pooler and Savannah Airport — 1-800-221-222 — ask for prime time rate which is 30% off the regular rate		

When making reservations, please indicate your special needs, i.e. hearing impaired, handicapped, smoking, non-smoking. Some suites are available at slightly higher rates at most hotels.

Rooms are on a first come, first serve basis, so please make sure you get your reservations in early. **The absolute deadline for all reservations is 1 APRIL 1996.**

RESERVATION FORM – MIGHTY 8TH AIR FORCE HERITAGE MUSEUM GRAND OPENING – MAY 1996

- Please reserve _____ room(s) for me and _____ at the Hyatt Riverfront, arriving _____, departing _____.
- I am making reservations at a hotel of my choice. Please send me and my guests named above an invitation to attend our 2ADA party, Sunday evening, May 12, 1996.
- Please advise the Heritage Museum that I and my guests named above expect to attend the events checked below:
- the opening ceremonies and preview reserved for 8th Air Force veterans and guests during the day on Monday, May 13
 - the reception in the evening on Monday, May 13
 - the formal dedication and public opening on Tuesday, May 14

Name _____

Address _____

Group Affiliation _____ Phone _____

- Enclosed is my check made payable to the 2ADA in the amount of \$ _____, which amount you are requested to include with other contributions being made to the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum.

CLIP & MAIL TO EVELYN COHEN, 06-410 DELAIRE LANDING ROAD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19114.

Editor's Note: We are pleased that at last we are able to present an article about our Little Friends. We hope that there will be more submissions so that they can be represented more frequently.

At the Lexington reunion I had the privilege of discussing this facet with 355th FG secretary, editor, and general "all around" man Robert E. Kuhnert. He was enthusiastic about the idea! Bob is a member of the 2ADA and has given me enough material for a dozen issues of the Journal. We certainly intend to take advantage of that! I took the liberty of taking these pertinent excerpts from a recent article he wrote for the 355th's publication, "The Mustang" . . .

The 355th Fighter Group has a rich heritage, being descended from perhaps the most illustrious pursuit group in the annals of aerial warfare — the legendary 1st Pursuit Group of World War I, which flew Nieuport 28s, Spads and Sopwith Camels. Capt. Eddie Rickenbacker, America's "ace of aces in WWI," was commanding officer of the 94th (hat-in-ring) Squadron.

In our World War II days we thought of those flimsy WWI fabric-and-wood flying machines as "crates" compared with our mighty all-metal P-47 Thunderbolt and the long-range, highly maneuverable P-51 Mustang, both heavily armed with terrifying multiple 50 calibre machine guns (which fired outside the arc of the propeller). And now our "superior" airplanes seem almost antiquated in the eyes of our young as they watch on TV, sitting in easy chairs at home, present-day jet fighters sending electronically-controlled weapons into doorways with surgical precision.

I recall the influx of brand new "gold bar second looies" with shiny silver wings, some of whom commanded 355th Fighter Squadrons and became excellent combat pilots, many of them aces. Sadly, some of them fell in combat and became prisoners of war; too many paid the supreme price of life; happily some evaded capture and returned. It is a gratifying feeling (as one ages) to remember helping "wet-nurse" those young men who distinguished themselves in combat. Some of those young "gold bars" went on to achieve general officer status in the post-war U.S. Air Force. One of them, as a brigadier general (Vice Commander, Aeronautical Systems Division, Wright-Patterson AFB), personally retired me from the Air Force.

The 355th Fighter Group distinguished itself in combat, leading all fighter groups in the 8th Air Force in the dangerous role of ground strafing, earning the title "Steeple Morden Strafers." Our group emerged from the war in either third or fourth place in combined air/ground victories. There may be a discrepancy in placement. I like to use information released by the 8th Air Force, and printed in the wartime newspaper *Stars and Stripes*. An article from S&S in my scrapbook lists the 355th in third place, showing 356 destroyed in the air, and 504 on the ground, a total of 860; the 355th bested only by the longer-serving 4th Fighter

We are the Mustangs... Your "Little Friends" of World War II!

BY ROBERT E. KUHNERT (355TH FG)

Group (formerly the Eagle Squadrons), and Lt. Col. "Gabby" Gabreski's much-touted 56th Fighter Group.

The 355th can boast having, at one time, the ETO's leading ace, as reported in another *Stars and Stripes* article. Capt. (now retired Colonel) Henry Brown, 354th FS, was the high scorer when Lt. Col. Gabreski went down, Henry having a combined total of 30. He needed only one more to tie Gabreski's record. As fate would have it, we lost our top ace, Henry Brown, to ground fire and POW status. We have him back and have enjoyed him at reunions.

Memorable events are chronicled in the history of our 355th. On April 5, 1944, shortly after switching from P-47s to P-51s, the 355th made a daring and dangerous — and profitable — raid on a German airfield in a raging snowstorm. For that mission the group was awarded the Distinguished Unit Citation (which is often referred to, and is currently listed in *Air Force Magazine* as, the Presidential Unit Citation).

There are interesting, exciting cliff-hanging stories which could fill a book, and there is a book which reviews and relates all missions and events. For those who may not yet be familiar with it, Bill Marshall (son of the late Col. Bert Marshall, one-time C.O. of the 354th FS) has written and published an excellent history of the 355th in WWII. Its appropriate title is *Angels, Bulldogs & Dragons* (nicknames of the three squadrons). We've distributed about 200 copies to members and friends through our 355th PX, and it is available in many bookstores, particularly in the air museums.

A first in WWII was achieved by 355th pilots: the daring "piggyback" rescue of Bert Marshall behind enemy lines by Royce Priest (now a retired Colonel), both returning to Steeple Morden in Priest's P-51. That story received wide publicity, and is told in *Angels, Bulldogs & Dragons*. That morale-building snatch-from-the-jaws-of-capture retrieval took place on August 18, 1944, just a couple hours prior to another fine morale-building event: the great Glenn Miller concert in our Steeple Morden airfield hangar.

Ken Williams (354th FS in WWII, now a retired Lt. Col.) was our first 355th pilot to go down in France (26 March 1944), evade and return to Steeple Morden in a very few weeks. Bill Cullerton may well be the only pilot known to survive a bullet from his own .45 going all the way through his body, then to escape, evade, and meet up with friendly forces.

Some other interesting 355th statistics: first 354th FS ace, Thomas F. O'Neal; first ace

in 357th FS, Norman Olson; first ace in 358th FS, William J. "Billy" Hovde (Billy was also the first group pilot to complete a tour without an abort). We believe Bill Cullerton (357th FS) was the first pilot in the ETO to destroy eight enemy airplanes in one day. First ace in the 2nd Scouting Force (whose primary mission was not fighting) was Bill Whalen. The 2nd Scouting Force operated out of Steeple Morden air-drome, was supported by the 355th, and is an integral part of our 355th story today).

The second ace of WWII was Carrol McColpin (355th HQ, now retired Major General). He had served with RAF Eagle SQ 133 and the 4th Fighter Group before joining the 355th. Aces-in-a-day (combining both air and ground totals): Henry Brown, Bill Cullerton, John "Moon" Elder, Billy Hovde, Claiborne Kinnard, Halbert Marsh, Jim McElroy, Joe Mellen, Duran Vickery, Bob Woody, and Bob Peters.

Six 355th pilots destroyed the new, mysterious and dreaded ME-262 German jet fighter: Charles Spencer, 354th FS; Wendell Beatty, 358th FS; John Wilkins, 2SF; Charles Redenbaugh, 2SF; and Elmer Riffle, 357th FS. Henry Kirby, 357th FS, shared an ME-262, and Gene Greenwell, 2SF, damaged one.

In WWII the 355th participated in, and was awarded battle stars for, the following campaigns: Air-Offensive Europe; Normandy; Northern France; Rhineland; Ardennes-Alsace; and Central Europe. The 355th flew the last England-Russia-Italy-England shuttle mission, escorting bombers on a mercy mission on 18 September 1944 to drop supplies to beleaguered Polish forces at Warsaw, continuing on to Russia for a refueling stop, then on to Italy and back to England on 22 September.

A testimony to the efficiency and success of the 355th in aerial combat may well lie on the ground. Our ground support people, from aircraft maintenance to supply, to mess and clerks, performed their duties in an exemplary fashion to keep 'em flying. My collection of wartime *Stars and Stripes* clippings shows that at least thirteen group ground personnel were awarded the Bronze Star for outstanding service in performance of their duties.

We cite one more instance of bravery, above and beyond, by ground personnel when, on 1 January 1945, a B-17 from Bassingbourn (91st Bomb Group) crashed on our air-drome, killing all aboard. It destroyed one P-51, damaged several others, and seriously wounded crew chief Bob Marzo (354th FS). C-Flight Chief T/Sgt. Ray Katzensky and crew chief S/Sgt. Morton Braun risked their lives to save Bob Marzo by quickly removing him from the area to the base hospital. Both Ray and Mort were awarded the Soldier's Medal (highest non-combat award) for their bravery and quick action.

All the foregoing is but a "sampler" of 355th "right stuff" quality in bravery, guts, skill, honor, and duty. We can all be proud to have served in the World War II 355th Fighter Group, and to pass on this legacy to our children and grandchildren. ■

On behalf of the Heritage League of the Second Air Division Association, I am pleased to bring you greetings and to offer you, as promised in the summer issue of the *Journal*, the essays of the winners of the league's annual essay contest.

The annual Heritage League Essay Contest produced two winners this year, each of whom received a \$100.00 savings bond and a medal. Chad and Matthew Beasley are cousins who wrote essays recounting the 2nd Air Division experiences of their grandfather, Bill Beasley (492nd BG). Both boys are in eighth grade; one wrote an interview type essay and the other a narrative.

Enjoy reading their essays and encourage your grandchildren to participate in the league's annual essay contest. Essay guidelines may be obtained from me, Billy Sheely Johnson, 600 Sandhurst Drive, Petersburg, Virginia 23805.

AN INTERVIEW WITH MY GRANDFATHER ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES DURING WORLD WAR II

BY CHAD BEASLEY

Grandpa: My name is Bill Beasley and I am Chad Beasley's grandfather. During World War II I was in the Army Air Forces, assigned to a bomber crew of a B-24. I was the armorer on the crew and also the tail gunner.

Chad: Were you ever shot down during your time in the service?

Grandpa: On my 17th mission we were sent to destroy an oil refinery in a place called Politz, Germany. It is located on the Oder River, a few miles south of the Baltic Sea. The Oder River is the river that separates Germany and Poland. This particular mission, we took off from our airport very early in the morning. It was a long flight, about a ten hour mission. On our way in there we encountered a large group of enemy aircraft which was there to try to stop us if they could, so we had a running shoot-out with these German fighters. This was before we reached the target. As we approached the target the German fighters dropped off because there was going to be a lot of flak over the target. We were briefed on 48 guns over the target, but there must have been a lot more guns over the target than 48. We got over the target and we got hit with several 88 millimeter anti-aircraft shells. It put one engine completely out and another engine was just carrying its own weight. We had numerous gas leaks all throughout the whole system. There were only two places where there was oxygen; the rest was destroyed over the target. Our hydraulics system was gone and our electric system was about half shot out. With the complete loss of one engine and another almost gone, we couldn't maintain our altitude. We didn't have enough gas to get back to England, so we flew out over the Baltic ourselves. Once we arrived at the other side we started to assess our damage. As it turns out, we were in pretty bad shape. We had a wounded man on board. The copilot took some flak in his foot. We decided at that time that we couldn't get back to England because we didn't have enough fuel and because



we couldn't stay up long enough to get there. At that point we decided to land the plane in Sweden. Sweden was a neutral country in the war. After we successfully ditched all the cargo on board, we then had enough altitude to make it to Sweden. We were informed that we were to stay in Sweden for the remainder of the war. We were then put into camps until November of 1944. The Swedes took us back to England. After we were in England they told us that we didn't need to fly any more missions so they sent us back to the United States. I figured out that I was in the continental United States for most of the war.

Chad: Do you think it was right for us to drop the atomic bomb?

Grandpa: Chad, I do. In dropping the bomb we actually saved a lot of lives. Of course there

"My personal opinion was that if we went into the war we would win it . . . we would beat them in the long run. It took four years and we did — we won."

were lots of lives lost in Japan because of the bomb, but they had it figured out that there would probably be one million lives lost if we had to go ashore and take those islands by force. In dropping the bomb it did away with all that, and although there were quite a few Japanese killed during this thing, we saved a lot of American lives at the same time. So for this reason I feel that the atomic bomb was used properly. I would hate to think about the bomb being used anymore, but in those particular times it was a necessity to get the war over with. Of course it was Harry Truman who made the decision to drop the atomic bomb, and he always said that it was the best decision he ever made.

Chad: Did you think that America would win the war from the beginning?

Grandpa: Well, Chad, when the war first started, things were pretty bad. Our fleet had been destroyed at Pearl Harbor, or a good share of our Pacific fleet. The Germans were overrunning Europe because there was no organized resistance against them. However, my personal opinion was that if we went into the war we would win it. I feel that they wouldn't get by with all the things they did to Europe. We would beat them in the long run. It took four years and we did — we won.

WHAT WORLD WAR TWO HAS GIVEN TO ME

BY MATTHEW BEASLEY

On April 13, 1944, my grandfather, a 22 year old young man, left to fight in a war thousands of miles away in a country that was strange and unfamiliar. He arrived nearly one month later at his new home, North Pickenham, England. During this time the crew tested the power of the B-24 prior to the time they would have to meet the enemy in combat over Germany.

May 12, 1944 began a succession of seventeen missions to various targets in German-held Europe which changed the world forever and turned a 22 year old into a different person. During the seventeen missions my grandfather flew, Hitler's war machine was seriously damaged and many changes occurred.

On May 12, 1944 a synthetic oil refinery located in Zeitz, Germany was completely destroyed after dropping demolition bombs on the target. This limited the production of much needed oil to Hitler's war machine. On several other missions other refineries were bombed, including Zeitz a second time. On many of the missions that followed, airfields in France were bombed beyond repair, limiting the power of Hitler's air force and further weakening German efforts to advance and conquer all of Europe.

On May 29, 1944 my grandfather took part in the bombing of Politz, which tested the limits of everyone on the mission. Politz was a gas dump in northern Germany which was an important part of the German war effort

and a strategic target for the allied forces. Three men on my grandfather's crew were wounded as a result of the fierce air battle. His plane was riddled with bullet holes and six of the ten guns were knocked out of commission as a result of the fighting.

On the remaining missions his crew met a wide variety of resistance, culminating with my grandfather being shot down as a result of a vicious air battle with German fighters and anti-aircraft fire. This required the crew to unload the plane of all unnecessary gear and equipment to lighten the load of a badly shot-up plane and make a decision as to where to seek shelter from the enemy. After a complete examination of the plane the crew realized that England was out of the question and that the only refuge from the enemy was to fly over the Baltic toward the uncertain destination of Sweden. With two of the four engines out it was impossible to gain any altitude, and the possibility of reaching Sweden was somewhat uncertain. With a lot of luck and a skilled crew, the coast of Sweden appeared on the horizon, and they landed in Malmo, Sweden. The entire crew was interned in Sweden, safely out of the grasp of the German forces.

Many times my grandfather has told stories
(continued on page 32)

BUNGAY BULL

446TH BOMB GROUP
BY AUD RISLEY



While many of you were basking in the sunshine of Boca Raton in May, three of your fellow 446ers represented you at the Second Air Division's anniversary celebration of VE Day in Norwich, England, May 5-12. I was in London on VE Day fifty years ago and this celebration in Norwich nearly rivaled that. On Sunday, VE Day, the three of us, Max Minier, Bob Newman and I marched in the parade along with over 900 other English and American military persons who were involved in WWII. It was thrilling. Thousands of folks from Norwich lined the streets, and we truly felt like we had just won the war as they cheered all the groups as they passed.

One morning Alan Hague and John Archer picked us up and we and our wives took the usual visitor's route to the church, the airfield, and, of course, lunch at the Black Swan and tea at Seething Air Base — a control tower which is now a museum and tea room. The highlight of the day was a visit to the Norfolk and Suffolk Aviation Museum near Flixton to see the many pieces of military memorabilia which have been added since my last visit.

The three of us were guests at Canon Pickering Junior School in Bungay during the week and we each spoke to a group of students. Their interest was amazing! The questions they asked made each of us feel that surely in this town the 446ers would never be forgotten.

453rd BOMB GROUP

FLAME LEAP

BY JAY JEFFRIES

There is a new pair of hands on the yoke, and we bet you never noticed the waver during the changeover! But you would have noticed a bump at least, had it not been for the dedication of **WIB CLINGAN**. Wib did not walk away from this assignment without making certain that he had been able to spend time, one on one, briefing me on those important, pertinent, ongoing things I needed to know. He then turned over all of the written materials that go with the chairman/group vice president's task, all neatly archived. That's Wib! We have been so fortunate that he was willing to serve the 453rd group vice president for these past five or so years. Thank you, Wib!

After having had a chance to review several years of notes on meetings held by the 2ADA executive committee, I have gained a new perspective on the tremendous amount of time, energy, and thought that has been and continues to be expended by those giving direction and meaning to our organization. They have been confronted with some challenging problems over the years, and none any bigger than those that confront them now. Our 2ADA executive committee deserves all of our continued support.

Our beleaguered membership vice president, **EVELYN COHEN**, can especially use some assistance now that our membership tends to be more transient. Please, if you are a "snowbird," don't create added confusion and added mailing costs by introducing two different addresses in a manner that leads to duplicate mailings and returned mailings. If there is change in your mailing address, please get that information to Evelyn and to your group editor, **WILBUR STITES**, as soon as possible.

Also, please pay your dues promptly upon notification that they are due. We need to conserve all of our money that we can, so we can spend it on worthwhile projects and not on postal expenses for reminders that we may have forgotten to mail in our checks.

It was good to see the 68 or so of you in Lexington. It appeared that all those present really enjoyed being together again. One thing

They even asked for our autographs!

On the final evening the usual dinner was held, and we were pleased to sit with Alan Hague and his wife Beryl, John and Lorna Archer, and the Fleetwoods (Christine is a librarian at our Memorial Room, and her husband is director of the prison in Norwich).

Following a two week tour in Europe with the Newmans and 34 other 2ADA people, we returned home from a wonderful trip. It could only have been better if more of you had been there.

Upon my return I received a call from Geoff Gregory, then president-elect of 2ADA, advising me that Marvin Speidel had resigned as our representative to the executive committee of 2ADA, and asking if I would help out. I agreed, and then set off for Lexington for the executive committee meeting which preceded the 2ADA annual meeting. (It was disappointing to again see only two 446th faces.) While Marvin has left me big shoes to fill, I will give it my best.

The other news from the 446th is, of course, the schedule of sites for our next four annual reunions. September 19-22, 1996, at the Pines Resort Hotel near West Point, South Fallsburg, NY, Marvin Speidel, Joe Soder, and Jim O'Connor will chair. In May of 1997, at San Antonio, Texas, John White will chair. In May of 1998, at the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum, Savannah, GA, Eli "Link" Veazey will chair. In 1999 at the Pima Air Museum, Tucson, AZ, home of the 446th Bomb Group B-24 airplane, Marvin Anderson will chair.

We are organized and we are busy — all this news from Ted Tate, our 446th president.

With my new assignment to put together the Bungay Bull news for the 2ADA *Journal*, I ask for your help. Send me your 446th tales, news, and suggestions. We know that they are eagerly read by our members, our families and our friends. Write to Aud Risley, 682 Slade Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120, phone (708) 741-7757. ■

we can count on for sure, is that the planning by Evelyn Cohen makes a good time a certainty. Thank you, Evelyn! We hope all of you can make it to the next 2ADA convention in Milwaukee next June. Plan now — for details see page 35.

Before the next 2ADA convention, we will have our third group reunion in San Antonio. **LINDA WITTIG**, **MO MORRIS**, and **HARRY WINSLOW** have all worked hard to put this one on for us. Please let them know how much we appreciate it!

Lest you think that we are coasting (we could, thanks to Wib), we are already working on a group reunion for next year too! We will tell you more in the next group newsletter.

We have a new member, **LLOYD A. JOHNSON**, who lives in Cherry Valley with his wife, Betty. Lloyd was at Old Buck in the 732nd SQ. Welcome, Lloyd — we hope to introduce you to the group in Milwaukee! Also, plan for our Southern California annual dinner next February at El Toro. You don't want to miss it!

Regretfully, we must report the passing of one of our own, **WALTER M. EASDON**. If you flew as a turret gunner in the 733rd, Walt had a hand in keeping it operating smoothly.

We have heard from Sara Orvick, who seeks info about her relative, **SGT. MILFORD PETERS**. It is believed that he was a tail gunner with the 735th, and was shot down May 8, 1944. That is about all the information we have, but if you can add anything, please contact Sara at 5458 Co. HWY. CC, Oregon, Wisconsin 53575.

HARLEY J. SNELL, a member of **RAYMOND SULLIVAN'S** 733rd crew, is interested in locating his crew members. A search of our current 453rd BG roster shows that not a single crew member is on board. Maybe you can help? Send me any info you may have.

WILLIAM (BILL) L. GARRETT has recently completed a splendid treatise based on both his first hand experience and his in-depth research. He has titled it *The Bulge: The Bridge and Bodenplatte*. If we ask, I'll bet we can get him to bring a copy of it with him to the next reunion that he and Carol attend. You will enjoy every bit of the time it takes to read it from cover to cover. Perhaps we can get Bill to edit out some of it to create some good stories for our newsletter. How about it, Bill?

I will soon be making some appointments to fill several vacancies. Your willingness to serve will be appreciated! Most of us have more time than money these days, so I guarantee that you will get a lot of satisfaction in being a participant in your group's activities. Do you want to be involved? Let me know — we can find something for you that is tailored to fit your talents, energies, and time. ■



RAY PYTEL REPORTING

445TH ANNOUNCES

"MANNA FOR SAVANNAH" CAMPAIGN

The Random House Dictionary defines "manna" as an "aid to success" as one of the meanings of the word. The 445th does want the Mighty 8th Heritage Museum to be successful — that's why the group voted unanimously at the Lexington group dinner to start a fundraising drive in the name of the 445th. We want it to succeed!

The 445th drive is separate and independent of the current 2ADA pledge of \$100,000, and it is the wish and desire of the 445th members in attendance at Lexington to have the 445th recognized as one of the many groups aiding in the success of the Mighty 8th Heritage Museum. Many other groups have already started their own drives, including some from the 2ADA — let's not be left in the dust! Make out your check or money order now to "8AF Heritage Museum" and mail it to me, Ray Pytel, Box 484, Elkhorn, WI 53121-0484. You may also use your MasterCard, Visa, American Express or Discover cards to contribute and join. (\$20 minimum for cards, please!) I have credit card blanks available upon your request.

EXTRA — "FREEBEE!" As an inducement to contribute, I will send you "absolutely free" the latest copy of the 445th membership roster, upon receipt of any contribution of \$20 or more. (If you would rather have a list of the 62 original 445th crews that flew over in November and December 1943, just ask! And if you contribute \$50 or more I'll send both of them!) Remember they're FREE!

(Upon hearing of the "Manna for Savannah" drive, Jack Pelton, who makes his home among many of our 2ADA members in "Sudden" or "Sodden," California, faxed me a picture of a \$20 bill. For what it's worth, I immediately "re-faxed" it to General "Buck" Shuler, head of the Mighty 8th AF Heritage Museum, to honor "big spender" Jack as one of our first contributors!)

To be "politically correct" I also decided to offer a "free chicken on a plate" dinner for a donation of \$1,000, and you can have your picture taken with me! Just like the big politicians do for the "bucks" in any big money raising campaign — except I will not give a speech! If you do not wish to take advantage of the dinner, I will be very glad to send, "absolutely free of charge," one plastic plate, one real rubber chicken just like the Rotary, Kiwanis, Lions and other "animal" clubs usually serve, plus a small can of peas and a box of lumpy instant mashed potatoes — so you will feel "at home" wherever you may be! C'mon, be a sport, and be "with it," err...politically correct, regardless of your political leanings!

Finally, if you wish to "save up" the money

for the contribution, why not start on the first of the month, put away a penny on that day, and double the contribution each day; i.e., two cents on the second day, four cents on the third day, eight cents on the fourth day, and so on until the end of the month — then wrap up all of your pennies and send them to me. The Mighty 8th will be very glad to accept your contribution! Why, it's only pennies! and fully tax deductible. "You'll hardly miss it!" Remember, its "Manna for Savannah" — so dig deep, and often!

I've decided to offer a free "chicken on a plate" dinner for a donation of \$1,000 — and you can have your picture taken with me! Just like the big politicians do for the bucks — except I will not give a speech.

Chuck Walker, part of the well known gang of "Dallas Desperados" which includes such diverse "rounders of the night table" as Jordan Uttal, Ray Lemons, 2ADA prez Geoff Gregory (otherwise known as "Der Father") and a megazillion of other 2ADA "actives" has sent me a reminder of WWII's music era, the Andrews Sisters — Buck Wrightham, 77, the model for the popular WWII song "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy of Company B," died recently in Clermont, Florida (see page 12). (Twyla and I hope to join this gang at the SW 2ADA dinner next March 2nd, hopefully, on the way back from San Diego and that wonderful West Coast 2ADA meet on February 24th at El Toro!)

The next 2ADA annual reunion will be in Milwaukee, June 13-16, 1996, and a one-day visit to the EAA Museum at Oshkosh is being considered. This is a large civilian and warbirds exhibit, which includes static, flying, and performing civilian and WWII-plus planes. If it works out, don't miss this one! (The late Steve Wittman, a famous air racer in the early 1930s, gave me my first flight lessons there in the '30s — Wittman Field in Oshkosh is named after him.)

Pete Henry, the usual 2ADA golf promoter, leader, and organizer, has asked for a 2ADA golfer knowledgeable about courses in the greater Milwaukee area to contact him (you can find his address on page two). All I know about golf is that in TV newscasts golf balls are used to measure hail. There must be at least a dozen members who can help him out (and know other uses for golf).

Frank McAnnally, brother of missing 445th crewman T/Sgt. Elsworth Billy McAnnally, called me and said that although he did not find out what happened to his brother on a mission to Munich July 11, 1944, a military burial will be held at Hico, TX on November

11, 1995. Full military honors will include, among other military participants, a "fly-over" by the Air Force from Dyess AFB in Abilene, TX. All 445th and 2ADA members are invited to attend. Hico is about 100 miles southwest of Dallas. The ceremony will start at 11 AM.

During this summer I have been busy, what with the 2ADA meet in July at Lexington, the audit of our treasurer Bill "you never outgrow your need for money" Nothstein and his wonderful hostess and wife Lucille, where we met "jack of all trades" Neal Sorensen from the Twin Cities, plus that delightful couple Allan and Jean Hallett from Leominster, MA. Together, we "audited the hell out of" Bill Nothstein and found all the moneys there, while the wives went on the tour of greater Spencerport, NY which includes the burg and suburb, Rochester, and that very "Erie" Canal.

We then went up to the New England coast, just north of Boston, for a visit with former crew member, navigator Jim Withey and his

wife Dot, who entertained us and took us all over Maine and New Hampshire, including former President Bush's summer home, Kennebunkport. We also got our fill of lobster and other "exotic" seafood in Portsmouth, NH and Kittery, ME. Jim is still a great navigator — and Dottie is a great hostess!

Then on to Massachusetts and a "let's get acquainted" working visit to the home of our printer, Defiance Graphics Corp. of Rowley. It was late August when we met Paul and Beverly Tardiff, who "showed us the ropes" of printing the 2ADA *Journal* and introduced us to Emily Brown, who handles the "nuts and bolts" of preparing all that submitted "stuff" for each issue. Just like Allstate Insurance, you can be assured we are "in good hands" with Defiance!

Just about every place we went in New England, there was a place or two advertising that "George Washington slept here." It is too bad, Twyla commented, that he couldn't tell Martha about some of the nice places he stayed.

Speaking of "I cannot tell a lie" George, after he became president, someone came over and said in admiration, "Truly you are the father of the country!" in admiration, to which Washington was supposed to have thoughtfully replied, "Not all of them, not all of them!"

Finally, our last 1995 trip was a fine 2ADA get-together September 19-22 for the midwest 2ADA reunion in Springfield, Illinois. It all has been very exciting, enjoyable and educational, and at times, although we travelled by car, we had to be "refueled in mid-air," and of course, there was the little matter of "learning the ropes" and helping to get this *Journal* out. But I hope that all ends well — just like someone said about WWII, somehow we got together and got the job done!

Just in case you have been wondering, I

(continued on page 37)

DICK AND HIS CREW . . .

A tribute to Richard T. (Dick) Witton, Lt. Col. USAF, Ret., Pilot, Leader, Friend The Story of a Man Who Was Low Key, Demanding, and Compassionate

BY A. EDWARD (ABE) WILEN (453rd)

Dick Witton passed away on February 16, 1995, in Chillicothe, Ohio, Veteran's Hospital. I was his navigator in war, his companion in POW camps, and his friend in the fifty years since.

Out of the original crew of ten who came together in September 1943 in Boise, Idaho, only four of us are now left. After Dick's passing, we felt we had to put together the story of a man and the team he molded together . . .

In November 1993 at the 2ADA convention, Dick came in late. As we escorted him to his seat at our table, we passed Andy Low's table. I said, "Andy, say hello to Dick Witton." Andy jumped up, as did Bob Bieck, also a pilot with our 453rd Bomb Group, and both grabbed Dick and held on. Dick was one of them and held in high esteem by both of his peers.

Buck Croxford, our copilot, when asked to comment about his relationship, stated, "Dick's landings were as smooth as grease. He always brought that B-24 in like it was touching in on a crate of eggs. He was a quiet, laid-back leader." Joe LeBoeuf, our top gunner, characterized him as friendly, understanding, gentle, and kind with his crew. He listened to his crew's problems and tried to help with them. He was a perfectionist. Everything had to be just right on our plane, as our lives depended on it. On our 13th mission, Joe was hit in the head by flak. Dick turned the controls over to Buck, pulled Joe out of the turret, laid him down, and stayed with him until he regained consciousness. Joe went on to say that after the war, Dick continued to stay in touch, sending Christmas cards and information on his family. On May 8th of each year, the anniversary of the date we were shot down, he would contact all the crew members. Walt Conneely, our bombardier, had a great sense of humor. He was quick with the one-liners to liven up the gatherings and lighten up the crew in tense situations. Dick used Walt's unique ability to keep the crew loose and relaxed and defuse explosive situations. But of all of us, Dick Witton, pilot, and Abe Wilen, navigator were the closest. For 45 years after the war, we lived one hour apart by car. Dick was two miles off Interstate 70 in Martin's Ferry, Ohio. I was two miles off the same road in Monessen, Pennsylvania, one hour away. Many-a-time, we came together at either place or halfway, in Washington, Pennsylvania, to reminisce, compare notes, fight the war, relive our POW experiences, and see how our families were coming along.

Dick molded our crew together as a cohesive unit during our training at March Field, California. He made sure each man knew his job and coordinated with the others as a unit. If anyone goofed, firmly but gently he was brought into line. Finally, we got our new B-24 in San Francisco and headed across country to West Palm Beach, Florida, our jumping-off point. On this trip, our copilot and bombardier borrowed a training plane to visit friends at another field. They got fogged in and couldn't get back. We were told to leave without them. Dick held his ground — we're a team, and we went together. We were then permitted to wait until the weather lifted and the boys returned.

In another enroute episode, one of our waist gunners got sick and went into the hospital. Dick refused to leave him, and somehow got him out of the hospital and into the plane, fever and all.

Dick and I bonded on the 12 hour flight from Fortaleza, Brazil, to Dakar, Africa. He flew and I navigated. We flew through storms so I could not do any celestial navigation. The sky and ocean were pitch black, so I could not read the waves through my drift meter. Together, we were doing old fashioned "dead reckoning" using the weather data we had gotten on takeoff. As we started to get low on fuel and the color of the water was lightening up, we knew we were approaching land. But what would come first, out of gas or reaching land? Not only did the whole crew bond, but Dick and I came together as one individual.

After missions or between missions, Dick was relaxed and he relaxed the crew. When we were on a bombing mission, he was all



Abe Wilen, Dick Witton, Joe LeBoeuf, Walt Conneely, and Buck Croxford at Dearborn, Michigan, July, 1991.

business. Everyone had to be alert and doing his job. On May 8, 1944, on a mission to Brunswick, Germany, we were badly hit by fighters. He gave the order to bail out and put the controls on autopilot, while at the same time helping to pull an unconscious copilot out to the bomb bay and literally throw him out of the plane. When he was certain that everyone who was alive had jumped, he himself bailed out. As he was coming down, German fighters machine gunned Dick and Walt Conneely. Luckily, neither was hit. When he reached the ground, Dick was immediately picked up by the German soldiers. As they went through a town, he saw other airmen, who had been picked up by S.S. or by civilians, being lynched from telephone poles and telephone wires. Afterward, our crew was united in a dungeon cell beneath an airfield. Two of the crew never got out, and our tail gunner was badly shot up and bleeding profusely. Dick knelt to help him. A German told Dick to move away, and since he could not understand German, Dick did not move. The German went over and kicked Dick violently in the side of his head and sent him sprawling. (Years later, Dick woke up one morning blind in that eye.) At that point, they separated the crew and we went to different interrogation camps. Dick, Walt, Buck, and I went to Frankfurt. Dick was held in solitary confinement for several days because they thought that Joe LeBoeuf was a French saboteur whom we were parachuting out. Finally, Dick convinced them and rejoined us.

Liberation came on April 29, 1945. Lots were drawn to see in which order the approximately 70,000 allied prisoners there would be evacuated. Fortunately, our tent was drawn first, and Dick and I went by train to an airfield, then by DC-3 to Camp Lucky Strike at LeHavre, France.

After the war, Dick stayed in the Reserves, was operations officer for the USAF unit at Greater Pittsburgh Airport, and rose to the rank of Lt. Col. He tried many times to get me back into the Reserves and join him; however, with family, business and school, I was preoccupied. But over the years we visited, we talked, and we stayed in touch.

We all realize it is getting late. Our tour of duty is coming to an end. It was a full tour, full of fruitful relationships with men like Dick Witton, Walt Conneely, Buck Croxford, Joe LeBoeuf, Andy Low, Milt Stokes, Bill Eagleson, Bob Jordan, Wilbur Stites, Tom Welch, Mac McDowell, Bob Bieck, Bob Bevis, Wib Clingan, and many more 453rd BG men, including our own Pat Ramm.

We know that when the last plane leaves, we can feel proud to know we left our legacy. ■

The Fourteenth Annual 2ADA Golf Tournament

The Fourteenth Annual Golf Tournament of the Second Air Division Association was held at the Marriott Griffin Gate Resort and Golf Club in Lexington, Kentucky, 3 July 1995. We had 51 golfers including seven ladies.

Eight prizes were awarded as follows: Roy Owens (44th), Men's Low Gross; Ernie Haar (492nd), Men's Low Net; Jim Hoover (392nd), Men's Peoria; and Vicki Warning (466th), Ladies Peoria. Each of these four were awarded plaques. Men's long drive on #9, Cater Lee (448th), received \$10.00 which he donated to the 2AD Memorial Room; men's closest to pin #4, Dick Trousdale (93rd) received three golf balls; women's long drive on #13, Vicki Warning (466th) received \$10.00; and women's closest to pin on #11, Betty Pulse (458th) received three golf balls.

I would like to thank Dick Butler (44th) for his assistance in running the tournament and Rick Rokicki (458th) for the beautiful 2ADA plaques. The 1996 golf tournament will be held in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in June. Look for details in the Winter or Spring *Journal*. ■

Kassel Mission Memorial Rededication Ceremony

BY REG MINER (445TH)

In the late morning of 27 September 1944, a savage battle took place in the skies about thirty miles southeast of Kassel, Germany. Some 100 Luftwaffe pilots in specially armed and armored FW-190s along with escorting ME-109s attacked the 445th Bomb Group's thirty-five B-24 Liberators. During the bloody struggle P-51s of our 361st Fighter Group joined in a bit later. As a result of this brief but violent encounter, 29 German fighters, 25 B-24s, and one P-51 were downed on German soil. Eighteen German pilots and one hundred seventeen airmen of the 445th Bomb Group died. One hundred twenty-one men of the 445th survived as prisoners of war.

Almost forty-six years later, on August 1st, 1990, a memorial honoring those killed in the battle was dedicated. It is located in a forest about one mile east of Friedlos at the site of the crash of Captain Chilton's group lead B-24. The existence of this memorial is the result of a



Kassel Mission Memorial 50th Anniversary Rededication, 27 September 1994

joint effort between American veterans of the battle under the aegis of the Kassel Mission Memorial Association and German fighter pilot organizations. Walter Hassenpflug, Commissioner of Public Safety, City of Bad Hersfeld, coordinated and guided the program. The memorial consists of three large granite stones on which are mounted bronze tablets with a brief description of the battle and the name and rank of each American and German killed. In the case of the German pilots, birth dates are also included. It is an impressive monument.

A group of 78 of us from the USA, including 23 survivors of the battle, attended and participated in that 1990 dedication. The thinking at that time was that we must have a rededication ceremony on the 50th anniversary of the battle to honor those whom we will never forget . . . Twenty-one of us from the USA, including six veterans of the battle, returned to Germany for the 27 September 1994 ceremony, along with several high ranking U.S. Government officials and a few hundred Germans. ■

What's in a Name?

Those of you who have seen the Collings Foundation "All American" B-24 on tour this year will have noticed that something new has been added — another name. It is now also called "Golden Girl." Schlitz Beer/Stroh Brewing Company became a corporate sponsor for the 1995 Salute to Veterans tour. Besides promoting the product on the aircraft itself, Schlitz is also featuring Golden Girl on its 12 and 24 pack cartons. Look for them.

But, what's in a name? In this case, one of our prominent 2ADA families, as the following letter from Victor Dzenowagis to Jordan Uttal will explain:

"My father, Mr. Joseph Dzenowagis (467th BG), asked that I send you a variety of the support materials that were developed as part of our national Schlitz B-24 consumer promotion at the Stroh Brewery Company. As the Group Director — New Products, I am involved with the Schlitz B-24 consumer promotion on a tangential basis, but have worked to ensure that the materials have been produced in such a manner as to result in a program that not only sells beer, but as importantly, is true to the B-24, and the 50th anniversary of World War II.

"The Schlitz B-24 consumer program is a national program that began in late April. It consists of a number of elements that commemorate the B-24, the 50th anniversary of WWII, and of course, the beer that made Milwaukee famous, Schlitz. This program includes both 24 and 12 pack cartons that incorporate photography of the B-24 in such a way so that when two cartons are placed adjacent to each other, it forms a massive billboard of the B-24.

"As I mentioned, my father thought you might find these materials of interest, and I hope you feel that they do the B-24 justice . . . Some of my friends in our sales force have told me that this is one of the best received programs they have ever seen.

"While I have only been to a couple of the 2nd Air Division Association reunions, I feel like I know many of the veterans in the 2ADA after listening to my family tell about the reunions and watching the videotapes. To me, the importance of the 2ADA goes beyond the union, camaraderie and remembrance that make up the fabric of the organization. The importance is found in the sharing and communicating of the core values of your membership to subsequent generations. The values of trust, loyalty and honor are timeless and universal. They embody, I believe, what your group is all about, and I'm proud to know that my family is part of that."

Ed. Note: Good work, Victor! The Dzenowagis name continues to do us proud. ■

Second Air Division Association

General Fund 1994-1995 – Annual Financial Report

<u>CATEGORIES</u>	<u>DETAILS</u>	<u>SUB-TOTALS</u>	<u>TOTALS</u>
June 30, 1994 Balance			\$232,039.00
1994-1995 Receipts			
Membership Dues	\$111,198.00		
Heritage Center	\$11,373.00		
Interest Income	\$5,276.53		
Memorial Book Endowment	\$7,528.66		
Other Sources	\$1,940.82		
Total 1994-1995 Receipts		\$137,317.01	\$137,317.01
Balance and Receipts			<u>\$369,356.01</u>
1994-1995 Disbursements			
Memorial Library			
Representative Expenses	\$7,184.89		
Trusts	\$7,528.66	\$14,713.55	
Journal			
Publishing & Printing	\$37,282.40		
Postage	\$8,950.62		
Editorial Review Board	\$744.06	\$46,977.08	
VP Membership Office			
Rent	\$5,700.00		
Expenses & Bond	\$6,348.28	\$12,048.28	
VP Communications			
Expenses	\$480.94	\$480.94	
VP Computer Office			
Rent	\$1,200.00		
Expenses	\$469.30		
Equipment	\$768.18	\$2,437.48	
Treasurer Office			
Rent	\$1,200.00		
Expenses & Bond	\$383.87		
Equipment	\$211.14	\$1,795.01	
Audit Committee		\$1,787.86	
Awards Committee		\$493.46	
Donations		\$6,219.90	
Executive Committee Expenses		\$15,571.92	
Liability Insurance		\$1,731.18	
Other VPs & Officer Expenses		\$10,921.09	
Oversight Committee		\$2,029.86	
Other Expenses		\$130.00	
Total 1994-1995 Disbursements			<u>\$117,337.61</u>
June 30, 1995 Balance			\$252,018.40

Elwood W. Nothstein
TREASURER

Attendees at Norwich, England, VE Day + 50 Celebration, May 5-12, 1995

44th Bomb Group

Dick & Ardith Butler, Frank & Kay
Butler Drake
Edgar and Kathryn Clark
Bob and Irma Dubowsky
Walt and Michael Fitzmaurice,
Frank Michel
Harry Jenkins
Bob and Ruth Lawson
Will and Irene Lundy
Tom and Brian McKenna
Tony and Cathy Mastradone
Ed and Erla Schwarm

93rd Bomb Group

Peter and Elizabeth Allatt
Al and Naomi Asch
Lew Brown and Rebecca Brown Estes
Harold Burks
Bill and Lillian Carpenter
Walt Smelt, Serena Patterson,
Peggy Ann Smelt Day
Bill and Anita Ferraro
Ellis and Hildred Fullwiler
Charles and Jane Graves
Mark and Barbara Hontz
John and Pat Hurd
George Johnson
Ed and Helen Logan
Bob and Madeleine McKeever
George McNulty
Paul and Janet Meyers
John and Jean O'Grady
Tom and Sally Parry
Russell, Lorraine, and Dennis Philpott
Ray and Mary Rhoades, Debby
Rhoades Smith
Dan Roure and Eileen Hunt
Ray Schneider, Tim and Karen
Schneider Crain
Joe Schwarzgruber
Don and Marylou Spencer
Paul Steichen, Paul Jr., Mike McGinty
Fred and Inez Strombom
Vernon Swaim
Hearol and Maxine Veteto
Norm Watten, Joyce Dagle
Lawrence and Theresa Williams
Bob and Marge Wright

389th Bomb Group

Al and Evelyn Campbell
Bill, Helene and Donald Denton
Glenn and Bernice Diel
Mary Lou Duke, Ann Duke Shaw
Allan and Jean Hallett
Leonard and Myrtis Howell
John and Lorraine Kane
Bud and June Koorndyk
Don and Carol Kunkle
Carl and Mary Moss
Fielder and Marge Newton
Skip and Zona Pease, Jenifer Pease
and Leslie Hylton, Steven, Nancy

and Stephen Pease, Frank Pease
and Charles Carlson, John and
Leslie Pease and Amanda Denny,
Randy and Cheryl Pease Vanos
Max and Cecily Renow
Jack and Evelyn Richardson
Cletus and Loretta Stevens
Gilbert, Charmaine and Susanne
Tilghman
Herbert and Jamie Trulove
Bill and Frances Whitney
Earl Zimmerman

392nd Bomb Group

Bill and Sarah Bowen
Jack Clarke, Mary Gombkoto
John and Wanda Conrad
Arnold and Cleome Dovey
Harold and Mary Esther Hutchcroft
Myron and Blanche Keilman
Joe and Mellan Lewin
Oak and Maxine Mackey
George Michel
Lawrence and Abbie Myers
Rocky and Mary Rothrock
Leonard and Rosemarie Waldo
Maltby Watkins, Howell, Valerie &
Will Watkins
Charles Wheelwright
Bob and Mary Ann Wickens

445th Bomb Group

Tony and Lois Bertapelle
Bill and Dorothy Boyanowski
Fred Bromm, Jackie Winters
Fred and Marjorie Dale
Roland and Lil Desjardins
Bob and Cass Drummond
Elmer and Jeanne Fischer
Andy and Virginia Haley
Richard and Phyllis Howell
John and Elsie Knizeski, John III and
Karen Knizeski
John and Louise Linford
Clarence and Winnefred Luhmann
George Lyburn
Don Myers
Dave and Joan Patterson
Don Pryor, Janet Westhaven
Ray Pytel and Twyla Kieffer
Carl Rambo
Richard and Viola Ramp
Joe and Shirley Reus
Ed Roloff
Miriam Ross
Billy and Elaine Stephan
DeWitt and Ruth Tucker
Chuck and Charles, Jr. Walker, Susan
Walker Horlock

446th Bomb Group

Carl Gjelhaug
Max and Shirley Minear
Robert and Margaret Newman
Aud and Fern Risley

448th Bomb Group

Albert and Jean Barnebee
Lou and Elizabeth Ladas
Jack, Lorraine, and Mary McDaniel
Dean and Glynda Peterson
John and Elizabeth Stanford

453rd Bomb Group

Andy and Lourene Cumming
Frank Davidson
Jim and Dorothy Dyke
Oscar and Virginia Freedgood
Dave and Harriett Hamlin
Russ Harriman
Swede and Virginia Johnson
Dan and Muriel Reading
John and Edna Thompson
John, Josephine, and Betty Vercler
Warren and Thelma Vernier
Allen and Dorothy Williamson

458th Bomb Group

George and George, Jr. Ahlsen
Lucien and Evelyn Albert
Bob and Mary Aileen Armbruster
Francis and Lucille Birmingham
Bob and Marie Birmingham
Don and Beryl Brewer, Michael,
Rebecca, Jessica, & Jennilyn Crane
Charles and Grace Domek
Bob and Beatrice Frazier
Paul and June Hartzell
Carl and Sarah Hein
Roscoe Heins
Fred and Virginia Honold
Peter and Evelyn Kowal
Bill and Jackie Matthews
James and Patricia Molloy
Jim Needham
Arnold and Hannah Piskin
Dick and Betty Pulse
Bob and Marty Renn
Ed and Pat Roettele
Rick and Ceil Rokicki
Bill and Lucy Seaman
Delbert and Sara Shaffer
Gordon and Evelyn Shupp
Joe and Monica Sirotnak
John and Laura Smith
Austin and Betty Stirratt
Bob Trautman
Larry and Robert Van Kuran
Gene and Polly Young
Frank, Olga, and Donna Zoubek

466th Bomb Group

Frank and Louise Bostwick
Margaret Calderalo
John and Marge Fay
John and Irene Horan
Jim, Mary and Dick Lorenz
Gerry Merket
Jeffrey and Amy Mills
Stan and JoAnn Mohr
Bill and Lue Nothstein
Bob and Sybil Pettersen, Adam and

Betty Petterson Whitman, Alan and
Karen Pettersen, Barbara Lee
Pettersen, Dianne Pettersen, Gail
Ann Schoonover
Jim and Elinor Russell
Gene and Jean Saltarelli
Charles and Louise Scarborough
Westcot Stone
Earl and Cynthia Wassom

467th Bomb Group

J.B. and Joyce Brinson, John and
Margaret Brinson
Mike and Teddy Caputo, Yvonne
Caputo, Kirk Walters
George and Katherine Church
Charles and Shirley Clawson
Ralph and Doris Davis
Joe, Helen, Joe Jr. and Joan
Dzenowagis
Ralph and Yvonne Elliott
Geoff and Terry Gregory
Joe and Jean Hodge
Capers Holmes
John Logan
Bob Meyers
Vince and Carolyn Re
Al and Charlotte Shower.

489th Bomb Group

Bud and Mike Chamberlain,
Nicholas and Jean Baldino,
Harold and Jean Garrity
John DeCani
Neal and Pat Sorensen

491st Bomb Group

Hugh and Thelma Bennett
Ed and Sue Brown
Seymour and Hazel Eisenstat
Lou and Anne Gallo
John and Marilyn Leppert
Harry and Betty Stephey
Shelton and Vi Wrath

492nd Bomb Group

Bill, Norma and Craig Beasley
Jerry and Freda Campbell
Bob and Dorothy Cash
Tom and Margaret Floyd, Lenora
Thompson
Bob and Patricia Mattson
Tom and Mary Anne Nelson

Headquarters

John and Jane Brooks
Luther and Betty Cloxton
Evelyn and Lil Cohen
Val Conroy
Winston Cooy
Mary Elder
Florence Pollner
Jim and Edna Reeves
Ray and Ruth Strong
Lloyd Urbine
Jordan Uttal
Milt, Hathy, and Caron Veynar

48th Annual Business Meeting

Second Air Division Association, 8th USAAF

Wednesday, July 5, 1995 • Marriott Griffin Gate Resort, Lexington, Kentucky

A. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by President Charles Walker at 10:00 AM. There were over 250 members present, constituting a quorum.

B. REPORT OF THE DELEGATE COMMITTEE:

F.C. (Hap) Chandler, group vice president, 491st Bomb Group, and chairman of the delegate committee, stated that this was an official business meeting of the 2nd Air Division Association, a not-for-profit veterans organization. Mr. Chandler moved that members in attendance be named official delegates to this 48th Annual Business Meeting. Motion seconded and carried.

C. REPORT OF THE SECRETARY:

The secretary thanked Norma Beasley, Director of Correspondence Services, for her extraordinary help in taking the minutes for the 1994 association business and executive committee meetings. Secretary Patterson had to overcome some health problems in that year, and Mrs. Beasley stepped in on the spur of the moment and did a fine and professional job.

The secretary then read the minutes of the 47th annual business meeting, held May 30, 1994, at Kansas City, Missouri. He indicated that the minutes had been published in the Fall edition of the Association's *Journal* for member review. Further, copies had been distributed to all group leaders earlier this week for review at their group business meetings. Bob Cash of the 492nd Bomb Group moved to accept the minutes as read. Motion was seconded and carried.

D1 REPORT OF THE TREASURER:

Treasurer Bill Nothstein (466th Bomb Group) indicated that the fiscal year ends June 30, and that his report is an interim one, covering eleven months through May 31, 1995.

The fiscal year (July 1, 1994) began with a balance of \$232,039; the balance on May 31, 1995 was \$251,589.

Receipts during that period: \$133,443; expenses: \$113,894.

Mr. Fred Dale (445th Bomb Group) moved acceptance of the report. Motion was seconded and carried.

D2 REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE:

The audit committee is composed of Neal Sorensen (489th Bomb Group), chairman; Floyd Mabee (93rd); and Don Champagne (489th).

Chairman Sorensen pointed out that one prime function of the audit committee is to verify the General Books of Account of the association. This entails verifying income and expenses, and checking the check stubs against these. The members visit the banks, verify the accounts, and ascertain that all accounts are FDIC insured (noting that no one account and no one bank has 2ADA moneys in excess of \$100,000). This year's audit of the 1993-94 books was performed on August 8 & 9, 1994, at Spencerport, New York, the location of the treasurer. All accounts were found to be accurate, in good order and professionally maintained, and Chairman Sorensen noted that the association is very privileged to have such a good treasurer.

The second function of the audit committee is to verify the books of account of the association's conventions. To perform this task, the committee visited the office of Evelyn Cohen, vice president membership and chairman, conventions, in Philadelphia. The committee verified the income, expenses, and balances. All was found to be in good order. A slight loss was recorded for the Kansas City convention, due to last minute attendee cancellations.

An audit was also made of the books of the newly established 2nd Air Division Association's "American Educational Foundation." The audit was conducted at the foundation treasurer's location in Lexington, Kentucky. The bank balance and the books of account were checked, and found to be accurate and correct.

Mr. Culross (467th Bomb Group) moved acceptance of the report. Motion was seconded and carried.

E. REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBERSHIP / CHAIRMAN, CONVENTIONS:

Vice President Evelyn Cohen stated that membership stands now at 7,408. This is a loss of approximately 600 over the past two years. (Given our membership's advanced age, she had expected a greater drop than this.)

The 1996 convention will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, June 13-16. Details will be in the Winter issue of the *Journal*.

The 1997 convention place and dates are not yet determined.

The 1995 VE Day Golden Anniversary celebration was planned for Norwich, England, by Evelyn Cohen and her committee in 1994, with promises from the U.S. Air Force of unlimited help (honor guards, bands, plans and support for various functions, etc.) Unfortunately, the Air Force did not follow through due to new budget restraints; thus Evelyn's committee had to make the arrangements on behalf of the association (at a cost of some £1,000 sterling. Thanks to this preplanning, and the

outstanding cooperation of the Lord Mayor and the people of Norwich, members of the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust, and other groups from the Norwich area, the association's 1995 VE Day + 50 visit was an outstanding success and a very memorable one.

The White House had asked Evelyn to be present at the VE Day celebrations at Arlington Cemetery; however, as she was committed to Norwich, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Freudenthal (489th Bomb Group) represented the association at Arlington, and at a luncheon with President Clinton afterwards. Additionally, the association was asked by the White House to be present at VE Day + 50 ceremonies at Fort Myers. Leo Z. (Bob) Penn (458th Bomb Group) attended this event for the association.

Association President Walker commended Evelyn for choosing this current convention site in Lexington, Kentucky, and thanked John Conrad, past president of the association, and Lexington resident, for his help in picking this outstanding place to meet. The membership gave them a round of applause.

F. REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT, COMMUNICATIONS:

The association's long-time *Journal* editor, Bill Robertie, passed away last year after a long illness. Vice President Chamberlain and the executive committee researched the association's membership for a fitting replacement, and finally found a qualified journalist willing to serve in this demanding volunteer job.

Vice President Chamberlain introduced the newly chosen editor, Mr. Ray Pytel (group vice president, 445th Bomb Group). The membership was advised that articles and communications for the *Journal* are to be submitted as before, as shown in the masthead of the *Journal*.

A newly implemented "Home Town Release" program will entail forwarding reports of honors bestowed upon our members to their hometown newspapers for release as news items (i.e. the awards bestowed on members at this convention's awards ceremony). This will give recognition to the members and bring attention to the association.

A concerted effort is being made to have announcements of our conventions and other major activities published in various veterans journals. Seven such journals published notices of this Lexington convention. Three times this number will be contacted for the next activity.

Press releases were made last year (1994) to the major media outlets, one covering the disastrous fire at the Memorial Library in Norwich. Actual publication of the news was spotty. The media can be informed, but will not necessarily follow through on all stories.

An in-house "Bulletin Board" to the association's leadership personnel is published to keep them informed in a timely manner of important developments within the organization. These are aimed to cover the periods between our regular quarterly *Journal* releases, and have been coming out approximately every two months. Future plans are to cut this time period to one month.

The report of the Vice President, Communications, was accepted (m. Reeves).

G. REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATION'S MEMORIAL TRUST GOVERNOR:

Due to illness in his family, Trust Governor Koorndyk was called home at mid-convention. His report was given by the association's Honorary President, Mr. Jordan Uttal. (It was fitting that Mr. Uttal give the report, as he held the post of the association's trust governor over a span of 17 years (1972-1989) before resigning due to impending radical surgery, and being succeeded by Mr. Koorndyk.) The report follows:

1. The physical rebuilding of the Norwich library: The walls of the burned-out structure are being torn down, and the library will be rebuilt on the same site.

2. The new temporary 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, housed in a vacant department store building, is up and operating. Replicated are the same, but smaller, facilities as in the prior Memorial Room, including a temporary Roll of Honor. The shelves contain approximately 2,000 books. A U.S. base at Chicksands (England) closed, and provided 700 books for the Memorial. These are in stock at the central facility, as well as at the memorial sections of the four branch libraries described below. The sections of the temporary library have been made in modular fashion, so that they can be moved intact to the new building, when the latter is rebuilt. The plans call for the new Memorial Room to be at least 50 percent larger in size than the destroyed one.

3. The dedication of this very attractive temporary facility was held May 6, 1995, and attended by 2nd Air Division Association Executive Committee members taking part in Norwich's VE Day Golden Anniversary Celebration. Those attending were very, very pleased with the temporary facility.

4. The 2nd Air Division Memorial has 150 books in each of four branch libraries, each of which is located in a 2AD wing area (Sprowston, Long Stratton, Attleborough, and East Dereham). These are in constant use, and are very much appreciated by the local residents.

(continued on page 31)

BUSINESS MEETING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 30)

5. The complete sets of the 2ADA Journals that were in the Memorial Room were saved and rebound, and are available for use. Also, the 58 audio tapes recorded by our association members were saved. These tapes of members' wartime experiences are important items of history. Each of those who have not made such a tape should do so soon, to record his story. (A copy should be furnished to the Memorial Room and a copy retained for the veteran's family history file.)

6. Immediately after the date of the fire, the association's president activated three emergency committees to help in the immediate needs relayed from Norwich. These subcommittees went right to work, and have made considerable progress toward completing their assignments. These committees were: Roll of Honor and Donations; Fixed Assets; and Memorabilia. The general membership was advised at this time that Governor Koorndyk is the person for our members to contact regarding any questions or ideas about the Memorial and its rebuilding.

7. The financial record of the trust was very favorable, even though the trust for the fiscal year 1994-95 showed a loss of £2,454 sterling. This loss was due to costs of restocking office supplies as a result of the fire (a portion of this will be covered by insurance).

The capital fund of the trust, with a cost of £307,286, had a market value in 1994 of £477,581. This reflects fine investment activity on the part of the Board of Governors.

A part of this fund is represented by the "Special Individual Endowment Fund," which has risen to a cost value of £42,000, with a market value of £62,176. The association governor and executive committee wish to raise this fund to a cost basis of £100,000, to assure books for the Memorial Room in perpetuity. The moneys donated to this fund result in the establishment of an individual line item account for each donor. Each year, the income from this line item account is used to purchase books for the Memorial, in honor of whomever the donor has indicated. The name of the donor is shown as a separate line item each year in the trust's annual financial report. Such endowments can be made in the name of an individual, or in the name of a bomb group. A minimum of \$1,000 will establish such an individual endowment and will result in a permanent flow of books to the Memorial. Groups which already have such endowments are: Headquarters, 44th, 389th, 392nd, 445th, 448th, 467th, 2ADA, and the Heritage League. The other groups are encouraged to establish one soon (as are individual members). Check with Governor Koorndyk for details on how to establish these funds. (Funds can always be added to, also.) The more funds available for book replacement costs from member contributions through this program, the less has to be taken from Capital Fund income.

8. Arrangements are being discussed currently through the Fulbright Commission for the possible placement of a librarian for 1996-97.

9. Also under consideration are some changes in the "2nd Air Division Declaration of Trust" which incorporates a possible reduction in the number of governors, with having the Lord Lieutenant of the County of Norfolk be responsible to nominate a governor, and other administrative matters of routine nature. The U.S. ambassador under the present trust appoints two governors; in the proposed revision this might be cut to one governor.

10. Hilary Hammond, Director of Arts and Libraries for the County of Norfolk, was to come to our convention, but was unable to do so, as he is meeting with representatives from the British "Millennium Commission." The British National Lottery's "Millennium Commission" is providing some moneys for certain worthwhile projects in Britain. The City of Norwich, including the private sector, has placed a bid for £29 million of the money to fund a proposed state-of-the-art library (including the 2AD's Memorial Room) and technology center. The library is now one of the finalists, thus, it was imperative that Mr. Hammond be available to meet with the commission, and state the case for the library and Norwich.

11. All books recently purchased with association funds, or with individual funds, are either in the Memorial Room, or in the memorial sections of the branch libraries. These have a special bookplate.

12. The Board of Governors is starting a drive in England to raise £150,000 (sterling) locally for the Memorial rebuilding. Some £10,000 has already been received, and moneys are coming in regularly.

13. Mr. Kotapish (453rd Bomb Group) asked, and it was verified, that stock can be given to the Memorial Trust (via the 2nd Air Division Association), with a possible income tax deduction. (Donors should consult their tax consultants for advice in any such tax matters.) The association's treasurer is organized to handle stock donations for the association.

14. The fountain that was part of the former Memorial Library has been saved intact, and it will be used again.

A motion was made by Mr. Chandler (group vice president, 491st Bomb Group) to accept the report of the association's Governor, as presented by Mr. Uttal. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mr. Uttal, on behalf of past president Earl Zimmerman, presented to Evelyn Cohen an hour glass made by Mr. Zimmerman. This was fabricated by Earl as thanks to Ms. Cohen for her outstanding job in arranging the VE Day Golden Anniversary Celebration in Norwich in May of this year. (Earl's hour glasses get around — one sits on the desk of Judge Lance Ito during the nationally televised trial hearings of the O.J. Simpson case.)

H. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT:

1. The president introduced Phyllis DuBois, Trust Librarian, Memorial Library. Phyllis recounted how terrible it was to see the devastation of the fire that destroyed the library in August, 1994. She said the rebuilding has given her and all those involved in Norwich a new challenge. After all, she said, the real memorial is in the hearts of us all and indestructible; the building representing the Memorial was destroyed, but can and will be rebuilt, to be a better than ever library. She has been reordering books, attempting not only to replace those lost, but adding and expanding the range of coverage to include the whole spectrum of American culture. Wherever possible, donor plates have been reentered on those books replacing the originals.

The temporary Memorial Room now has over 2,000 books, and in addition, the room now contains 2nd Air Division group tailfin logos, maps of the airfields, lists of 2nd Air Division aircraft, and other memorabilia. (Fortunately, most of the memorabilia collection was not lost in the fire.) Our temporary location, where we will stay until the new library is built, is bright and attractive. We have a map showing the airfields, lists of 2nd Air Division aircraft, and local people have filled the group memorabilia boxes. If members have books or memorabilia suitable for the Memorial, please write to Phyllis.

The library staff is now recovered from the shock of the loss, and is again fully organized and "on an even keel." The staff welcomes returning veterans to inquire about a visit to Norwich. They will help book hotel rooms, make contact with locals capable and willing to guide returnees to their bases, and otherwise help make their visit enjoyable and memorable.

The Memorial Room in the future must provide materials to keep alive the memory of the 2nd Air Division in the minds and hearts of the coming generations. This will be done through the planned expanded facilities: an audio-video projection room, expanded exhibition space to show 2AD memorabilia, and other means. Additionally, the library must look to the future, to have the technology in place to join in electronic interchange of data with other facilities: the 8th AF Heritage Museum, Maxwell AFB, the National Archives, and with other databases throughout America, Britain, and the world.

2. Next, President Walker introduced David Hastings, Vice Chairman of the Governors of the Memorial Trust. Governor Hastings brought warm greetings from the Board of Governors, from Hilary Hammond and the county library team, from the "Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial" organization, from the people at all the old 2nd Division bases and villages, and from all those who work hard to serve the Memorial. Mr. Hammond sent his regrets on being unable to attend the convention, but he had to stay in Norwich to meet with the Millennium Fund representatives.

The past year has been one of joy (with the renovation of the Memorial Room and the Central Library in April, 1994), of sadness (with the burning of all that in August), and then of challenge, to rebuild bigger and better. Many people helped. Paul King gave the use of his board room to reestablish the Memorial Room facilities for receiving visitors. Hilary Hammond need only be asked for materials or workers, and the help came. The Trafford family began a fundraising program. The 2nd Air Division Association immediately went to work obtaining replacements of needed items for the temporary library. The Fulbright Commission and the U.S. Embassy offered funds and other help right away for emergency supplies. Others who gave of themselves included Colin Sleath, Lesley Fleetwood, and of course, your association and its representative, Bud Koorndyk.

The governors decided to rebuild a bigger and technology-current Memorial Room, and launched a project to raise £150,000 for this purpose.

Another bright spot: the return of the 2nd Air Division Association veterans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of VE Day, as well as the rededication of the Memorial at its new temporary site. The people of Norwich were inspired to see these veterans honoring Norwich by returning to their city for the VE Day Golden Anniversary celebrations. Mr. Hastings spoke of the hope for moneys from the Millennium Commission to fund the proposed "Technopolis," included in which would be the Memorial Library. If successful in the bid for the £29 million sterling, the rebuilt Central Library would be outstanding, and a new 2nd Air Division Memorial Room would be the finest memorial in the world. It would be a fitting tribute down through the ages to those 6,700 of the division who fell, and to those who survived. Included in the proposal for the Memorial Room is a "Virtual Reality Theater," in which one would experience the reality of a 2nd Air Division B-24 bombing mission. Also included in the bid are 350 computer work stations where visitors can interlink with libraries and centers of learning throughout the world. This project will take close cooperation between the City of Norwich, the Norfolk County Council, the Memorial Governors, and the 2nd Air Division Association.

The Millennium Commission has indicated that one important reason for the Norwich bid to be in the finalist list of 25 (out of some 565) is because of the uniqueness of the 2nd Air Division Memorial. (A word of caution: this is a hope, not a foregone conclusion. Therefore, emphasis must be placed on the raising of the £150,000 fund mentioned above, to assure that the Memorial will be bigger and better in any event.)

Meanwhile, Fulbright is looking for a candidate for the post at the library in 1996; someone who will help in the rebuilding plans to bring the Memorial Library into the new century of information interchange.

(continued on page 32)

BUSINESS MEETING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31)

The governors are working to strengthen their links with the 8th AF Heritage Museum in Savannah, and with the 2nd Air Division Association's Heritage League.

The governors are also looking to increase the trust capital fund to at least \$550,000, to assure a strong financial future for the Memorial.

Governor Hastings said the pledge of the governors is that the Memorial will be rebuilt, it will be the greatest in the world, and the governors will never let the association down.

3. President Walker thanked Governor Hastings for his great work for the Memorial, and his untiring work to make the VE Day 50th Anniversary visit by the 2nd Air Division veterans an enjoyable and memorable one. President Walker also thanked Phyllis DuBois for her great devotion and hard work to organize the temporary operation of the Memorial Room. He pointed out that Hilary Hammond too deserves special recognition and thanks for his untiring work to start the process of rebuilding the Memorial to even greater heights. Others deserving special credit include Tom Eaton, Chairman of the Board of Governors; Paul King, Governor, and many others.

4. President Walker introduced Bob and Betty Kuhnert of the 355th Fighter Group, and welcomed them to the convention.

5. David Turner, of the Turner Publishing Company, was introduced next.

Mr. Turner indicated that the recently published history book of the 2nd Air Division was one of their best, and thanked John Conrad, the association's president during the gathering of 2AD data, for this help, and the help of several others who worked with him. Mr. Conrad was Turner's guest speaker at a recent Turner company meeting.

The Turner Publishing Company and the 2nd Air Division Association have joined together again to do a second volume of the history of the 2nd Air Division. This will contain additional biographies, crew photos, personal war stories, added details of the history of the bomber and fighter groups, and updated rosters. The association will enjoy a royalty on books sold similar to that provided for the first edition (5%).

Turner asked every veteran to write his history for the benefit of the younger generations of his family. They are the ones who ultimately will treasure these important stories of their family's past, perhaps not until they become older, but for certain some day.

6. The president introduced Billy Sheely Johnson, President of the 2nd Air Division Association Heritage League.

7. President Walker announced that the WACs were holding a raffle at this convention, and the money acquired will be donated to the Memorial Room as an endowment fund for the WACs. The moneys will also be used to provide a fund for flowers for WACs who pass away in the future.

8. The executive committee has pledged \$100,000 to the 8th Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, Georgia. \$25,000 has already been given. Another \$25,000 is being donated at this convention, and association members were encouraged to continue to send in donations, so that the association may meet the \$50,000 balance of its commitment.

L. REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

The nominating committee was composed of John Conrad (392nd Bomb Group), chairman; W. (Bill) Beasley (492nd BG); Ralph Elliott (467th BG); Neal Sorensen (489th BG); and Paul Steichen (93rd BG).

Chairman Conrad presented the committee's slate, and moved that the persons represented by the slate be elected: President - Geoff Gregory (467th Bomb Group), Executive Vice President - Neal Sorensen (489th BG), Vice President, Membership - Evelyn Cohen (Headquarters); Vice President, Communications - C.N. (Bud) Chamberlain (489th BG); Secretary - David Patterson (445th BG); Treasurer - E. (Bill) Nothstein (466th BG).

In accordance with the association bylaws, the committee is charged with the appointment of six group vice presidents to serve as voting members of the executive committee for the coming year. Those appointed are: W. (Bill) Beasley (492nd Bomb Group), Ralph Elliott (467th BG), Oak Mackey (392nd BG), E. (Rick) Rokicki (458th BG), Ray Strong (HQ), and Earl Wassom (466th BG).

The slate as presented was seconded.

The president asked for nominations from the floor. None were forthcoming, and H.C. (Pete) Henry (44th BG) moved that the nominations be closed. The motion was seconded and passed. Hathy Veynar (WACs) moved that the slate of officers presented by the nominating committee be approved unanimously. The motion was seconded and passed.

J. ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the meeting, it was moved by David Patterson (445th BG), seconded, and passed that the meeting be adjourned. The time of adjournment was 11:35 AM.

David G. Patterson
Secretary ■

YOUR HERITAGE LEAGUE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

recounting the details of his experience in World War II. These stories are of wounded and fallen comrades and German fighter pilots that flew by so close that you could see their faces. During these stories he relayed many lessons learned from his experience in the war. He relayed his great appreciation for the value of life. He has made me realize that it is important to face the troubles in life without fear and with courage and that it is important to fight for what you believe in. I also realized that the world would be a very different place if my grandfather and the hundreds of thousands of men like him had not gone to war to fight for the freedoms that they so strongly believe in. I am also glad that he safely returned and was able to pass these important lessons on to his children and grandchildren. Thank you, Grandpa. ■

HERITAGE LEAGUE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I wish to become a member of the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF) and to support its purposes. I certify that I am eligible for membership under one of the categories indicated below.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____

Work Phone _____

2ADA Sponsor _____

Unit No. _____

Relationship _____

Membership Category: Regular Associate
 New Renewal

Annual Dues: Regular \$6.00, Associate \$4.00

Signature: _____

Send Remittance To:
Heritage League of the 2AD
Caron D. Veynar
4915 Bristow Drive
Annandale, VA 22003

Regular Members: Spouses, brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren of former personnel, military or civilian, American and British, who at any time served with the Headquarters organization of the 2nd Bomb Wing, 2nd Bomb Division or 2nd Air Division during WWII and any person who served with any bomb group or any other unit of the 2nd Air Division, USAAF, either assigned or attached. These shall be voting members.

Associate Members: Friends or associates of regular members who have shown a demonstrated interest in the league and who make literary, artistic, historical, or other valuable contributions to the 2nd Air Division Association, the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF) and/or the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division. These shall be non-voting members.

Attendees at 48th Annual Convention, Lexington, Kentucky, July 3-6, 1995

44th Bomb Group

Bob and Ginny Bratzel
Al and Doris Browning
Dick and Ardith Butler
Pat and Ginny Colucci
Bob and Charlotte Funke
Mike and Kaye Fusano
Ted and Mary Grey
Griff Griffin
Pete and Mary Henry
Norman Linville, Lerverne Rice
Will and Irene Lundy
Roy and Lolly Owen
Frank Schaeffer, Grace Fitzgerald

93rd Bomb Group

Harry Albright
Bert and Shirley Alexander
Ed and Thelma Allen
Al and Naomi Asch
George and Boots Baker, Bobby Lee
and Sandra Baker Henderson
Sam and Josephine Bargamian
Joe and Peggy Bradley
Lew Brown, Marilyn Meyer
Bill and Lee Brown
Bob and Betty Calkins
Jim and Alice Cooley
Cal, Keith and Scott Davidson
Bill and Joe Doerner
Paul, Nora, Richard & Dennis Harwood
Earl and Gini Heffner
Tommy and Cathy Hernandez
Chuck and Yonnie Hoffman
Mark and Barbara Hontz
John and Pat Hurd
Mary Hricki
C.D. and Simone Johnson
John and Midge Kerler
Burton and Carol Lenhart
George McNulty
Floyd and Dot Mabee
Paul and Janet Meyers
Mike and Dot Mikolajczyk
Don Morrison
Howard and Jan Nisbet
Henry and Bea Nykamp
Bill Orient
Jack Preziose
Katie Reese, Karyn Kasnik
Cal and Peggy O'Mara Stewart
Dick Trousdale
Norm Watten
Bob and Margy Wright
Sam and Sylvia Zinn

389th Bomb Group

Andy and Ruth Anderson
Phil and Anne Ardery
Bill and Betty Berry
Oscar and Edith Boudreaux
Gaynell Clark
Chuck and Gennie Dearing
Helen Schaefer Dickman
Barney, Emme and Jennifer Driscoll
Geb and Betty Gebhard
Bob and Iris Gilbert
Allan and Jean Hallett
Gene and Nancy Hartley
Ken and Junice Jones
John and Lorraine Kane

Stan and Sylvia Katz
John and Theodore Koepper; Jim,
Cynthia Koepper; Erick, Mark, and
Heather Thompson
Bud Koorndyk
Felix and Marjorie Leeton
George, Marty, Jim, Barbara, Robert,
Bea and Michael Makin
Willis Marshall
John Morgan, Mary Detweiler
Ray, Ruth, Carl and Ellen Nathe
Fielder, Marge, and Scott Newton
Walt O'Connor
Wally and Ginny Sigworth
Bill, Margaret, and Steve Sills
Lou and Doris Smith
Bob and Jeannie Stout
Floyd Toney
Jim and Mary Valla
Jim and Judy Weaver

392nd Bomb Group

Lou and Kay Affinito
Hank Allen
Gil Bambauer
Ernie Barber, C.M. & Evie Barber
Vern Baumgart
Luke Beddingfield
Wally and Lorraine Blackburn
Bill and Marge Braddock
Floyd and Roberta Bull
Carroll and Mabel Cheek
John and Wanda Conrad, Bill and
Mary Beth Conrad Shores
Harvey and Bette Devoe
Ray and Cile Dunphy
Charley and Helen Dye
Ebe and Jeanne Ebersole
Teddy Egan
Ben Foote
Herman Garner, Annell Courtney
Gil and Marjie Gilbert
Jim Goar, Virginia George
John, Fern, and Stephanie Goodwin
Dave and Renee Greene
Bob and Jane Harned
Jim and Reba Hoover
Ed Janak
Arlo and June Jones
Ray and Norma Jean Kopecky
Harry Kruse
Bob Lane
Birdie Schmidt Larrick, Sally Kauffman
J.D. and Emily Long
Oak and Maxine Mackey
Jim Marsteller, Ben Jones
Cliff and Mary Peterson
Polk and Dette Polking
Ed and Erma Popek
John and Rose Rickey
Keith Roberts
Lou and Delores Stephens
Fred Thomas
Harry and Edythe Vasconcellos
Neely and Sharon Young

445th Bomb Group

Mary Beth Barnard
Doc Bowen
Larry and Mary Bowers
Bob and Lou Conrad

Charlie and Evelyn Cooper
Fred and Marge Dale
Desi and Lil Desjardins
Frank and Elizabeth DiMola
Eck and Janet Eckelberry
Lew and Audrey Flagstad
Ed and Anita Goldsmith
Andy and Ginger Haley
Harry and Louise Harris
Fon Johnson
Jack and Dede Knox
Ray and Jean Lemons
Dick and Marge Littlefield
Eldon and Eileen Long
Mac and Marge McCormick
Bill and Shirley McRorie
Ernie and Betty Marino
Glen, Jean, and Barbara Marsteller
Sam and Pate Miller
Reg and Martha Miner
Ab and Ellen Musser
Jim and Joan Myers
Ode and Geri Odegaard
Dave and Joan Patterson
Ray Pytel and Twyla Kieffer
Al and Dot Querbach
Carl Rambo
Ed, Sue and Randy Roloff
Paul Sturgill
Tex and Dorothy Surratt
Mac and Kathleen Thornton
Virgil and Sonia Trombly
Chuck Walker
Roger and Melba Ward
Ed and Doris Weddle
Don and Iva Wimbicus
Ed and Rosalie Zobac

446th Bomb Group

Clarence Hooks
Jim and Avonell Pickett
Aud Risley

448th Bomb Group

Ron and Gloria Berryhill
Paul Brown
Wiley Christie
Raoul and Martha Erdman
Ben and Charlotte Everett
Bob and Marian Frantz
Arthur Hipkins
Dick and Bobbie Kennedy
Cater Lee
Jack and Lorraine McDaniel,
Beverly Price
Tom Murphy
Gus and Alberta Schrader
Dearl and Lela Whitaker
Charlie and Betty Yant, Kathy Jackson

453rd Bomb Group

Hank Barker
Ed Becker
Lee and Gloria Berg
Bob Bieck
Bert and Claire Biel, Irene Hurner,
Ro Lightly
Stew and Marge Bragdon
Dick and Cora Brown
George and Clara Chipman
Wib Clingan, Jeff and Carolyn Clingan
and Family

Lyman and Geneva Crumrin
Jim and Dorothy Dyke
Joe Edwards
Jim Elkins
Gervais Ford
Ralph and Phyllis Ford
Dave and Harriett Hamlin
Russ Harriman
Bob and Lois Haar
Jay and Anna Jane Jeffries
John and Nita Kassab
Jim and Jimmie Kotapish
Grace Lane
Doug and Jane Leavenworth
John and Teresa McGough
Burton Madison
Bob and Lavawn Mallick
Walt and Betty Meyer
Dot Middleton
Mo and Ludie Morris
Lloyd and Nathalie Nelson
Don and Peggy Parcells
Charlie Parker, Sonia Kelley
Lloyd and Irene Prang
Bob and Helen Pedigo
Ken and Jay Samuelson
Jack and Helen Sanders
Wilbur and Jean Stites
Caleb and Virginia Stout
Bill and Mary Wheeler
John and Dorothy White
Abe and Janet Wilen
Ralph Walker
Marjorie Sallee Zilm

458th Bomb Group

Jerry Allen
Bob and Olive Bear
Roy and Lil Boutte
Birtto and Jean Brumby
Clink Davis
Larry and Marge Fick
Don and Carolyn Fraser
Jim and Marion Ginn
Ernie and Helen Gordon
Stan and Dorothy Hammell
Bud and June Hartzell
B.P. and Georgia Hebert
Ken and Alice Holcomb
O.D. and Penny Johnson
Pete and Evelyn Kowal
Doyle and Eloise Matz, Mike and Ruby
Lynn Matz Schuster
Ray and Martha Metz
Bill and Loretta Nicholson
Herman, Bertie, and Richard Peacher
Dick and Betty Pulse
Ed and Pat Roettele
Rick and Ceil Rokicki
U.B. and Opal Simoneaux
Frank and Mildred Vermeiren
Sam and Lita Weakley
Wilco and Helma Wilcox

466th Bomb Group

Dick and Margaret Baynes
Frank and Louise Bostwick
Mack Dike
John and Irene Horan
John and Martha Kraeger

(continued on page 34)

466th Bomb Group (continued)

Jim and Mary Lorenz
 Gerry Merket
 Stan and JoAnn Mohr
 Bill and Lue Nothstein
 Jim and Elinor Russell
 Gene and Jean Saltarelli
 Kurt and Vicki Brooks Warning
 Earl and Cynthia Wassom

467th Bomb Group

Jim and Janie Betcher Bates
 Archie and Helen Boisselle
 Ed and Kay Branaman
 Wayne Crosson
 Mel Culross
 Joe, Helen and Joe Jr. Dzenowagis
 Norman and Lucy Felbinger
 Geoff and Terry Gregory
 Jim and Barb Hogarth
 Sidney Katz, Vivian Bernstine
 Larry and Faye Kurtz
 Vince and Carolyn Re
Al and Char Shower
 Lowrey Spencer

489th Bomb Group

Bill and Melba Anson
 Barney and Carrie Baxter
 Woody Belward
 Otey and Ruth Berkeley
 Fremont and Mary Betts
 Ray and Lyn Blachard
 George and Iri Brite
 Ivan and Lillian Brown
 Alfred Brunner
 Bud and Mike Chamberlain
 Bob and Teresa Cline
 Jim and Jean Davis
 Henry and Alva Dellano
 Dick and Josie Dietrick
 Don and Shirley Engler
 Charlie and Helen Freudenthal
 Charlie and Olga Gabrus
 Lou Gramando
 Homer and Geneva Haile
 Ed, Camilla, and Lynne Hanlon
 Charlie and Flo Harkins
 Chuck and Ruth Hayes
 George and Joan Heller
 Bob Jurgens, Gayle Jurgens
 McMurtrey, Karen Jurgens Knight
 Jim and Sherry Kiernan
 Bob and Jean Kirby
 John and Patricia Lamar
 Joe and Germaine Lapierre
 John and Terry Leo
 Ted and Gladys Maruschak
 Harold and Martha Morris
 Edmund and Mary David Myles
 Jim and Mary Pace
 Neal and Pat Sorensen
 Dick and Bev Stenger
 Paul and Bambi Surbaugh
 Charles Taylor
 Bob and Miriam Thomas
 R.B. and Lucille Tolson
 Bill and Polly Wilkinson

491st Bomb Group

Hugh and Thelma Bennett
 Andrew and Margaret Bouchard
 Chester and Lila Carr

Vin and Wilma Cahill
 Jim and Thelma Campbell
 Hap and Caroline Chandler
 Bill and Pat Ducey
 Bernie and Clara Head
 Jack and Flora Lane
 John and Marilyn Leppert
 Mick McMechan, Princess Aiello
 Lloyd and Catherine Metcalf
 Ken and Janet Neitzke
 Cal Shahbaz
 Norm Stickney
 John, Sarah, and Megan Torode

492nd Bomb Group

Charles and Lorraine Bastien
 Bill, Norma, Bill III, Kathi, Matthew,
 and Joshua Beasley
 Jim and B Brown
 Jerry and Freda Campbell
 Bud Carter
 Bob and Dorothy Cash
 Bill and Maxine Clarey
 Milt and Betty Goodridge
 Ernie and Emile Haar
 Billy Sheely Johnson
 Jim McCrory
 Harold and Martha McMahon
 Sam and Edith Micelli
 Don and Billie Whitefield

Headquarters

Evelyn and Lil Cohen
 Virginia Tomlin Davis
 Mary Frances Willie Elder
 Harriett Fau
 Livingston and Tina Jones
 Dottie Reim Krogmann
 Hal and Jeanne McCormick
 David and Lida B. Cown Norris
 Jim and Edna Reeves
 John, Janice, and Ruth Sanders
 Tess Rick Stevens
 Eleanor Storms
 Ray and Ruth Strong
 Jordan Uttal
 Milt, Hathy, and Caron Veynar
 Joe Whittaker

Special Guests

Phyllis DuBois
 2AD Memorial Room Librarian
 David and Jean Hastings
 Vice Chairman, Board of Governors,
 2AD Memorial Trust
 Robert and Bettye Kuhnert
 Secretary and Treasurer,
 355th Fighter Group
 Buck and Annette Schuler
 8th Air Force Heritage Museum,
 Savannah, Georgia
 Dave Turner
 Turner Publishing
 David and Jean Woodrow
 Owners, custodians, chief cooks and
 tour guides - 93rd Bomb Group,
 Hardwick, England

New Members

Headquarters

Theresa Rice Stevens
 J. Tait Hardaway

93rd

Robert E. Bembenek
 Nelson A. Crawford
 Richard Harwood (AM)
 John J. McKeon

389th

Orlin H. Benedict
 Robert E. Gilbert
 Jack M. Gould
 Wyatt J. Weeks
 John F. Cearnal (AM)
 John S. Cearnal (AM)
 Robert C. Cearnal (AM)
 Lola L. Fitzpatrick (AM)
 Philip B. Leeton (AM)
 Thomas E. Leeton (AM)
 W.M. Leeton (AM)
 Joyce K. Lindquist (AM)
 Scott Newton (AM)
 Jane Sansalone (AM)

392nd

James A. McLaughry

446th

Pat Priest

448th

Earle P. Durley, Jr.
 Col. Chester B. Hackett (Ret.)
 Douglas R. Alexander (AM)
 V. Kathleen T. Steinberg (AM)

445th

Robert C. Augustus
 Kenneth M. Davis
 W. Wright Lee
 William H. Crowley (AM)

448th

Worth O. Hamilton
 Liborio W. Papalia

453rd

Maj. Joseph J. Barrientos (Ret.)
 Marjorie Sallee Zilm (AM)

458th

Donald J. Benson
 Patrick Carey
 Richard D. Cramer
 Col. Leslie J. Gentry, Jr. (Ret.)
 Steven J. Pittler
 Victor Valenti

466th

Al McCloskey

467th

Howard E. Haller

489th

Arthur M. Komm

491st

Chester Carr
 William J. Hirsch (AM)

492nd

Thomas A. Graven

SM

Cindy Coan
 Michael Donohue
 Tom Flanagan
 Barry D. Harris
 Tom Harris
 Alan Trattle
 William P. Watts
 H. Thaddeus Wolosinski

Membership Items

You can be a big help to Evelyn Cohen and save \$\$ for the 2ADA if you will observe the following:

1. Send ALL address changes to Evelyn Cohen, 06-410 Delaire Landing Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114.
2. Do NOT send an address change for "snowbirds" who are simply moving between known summer and winter residences. We find it most economical to send a *Journal* to each address anyway, so a notice is unnecessary.
3. Dues statements will be sent during October/November. Please reply to the first one. Additional notices cost additional money.
4. Dues for overseas members will be raised to \$20.00 to offset increased postage.

THANKS!

Second Air Division Association
49th Annual Convention - June 13-16, 1996
 HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53203 • 414-276-1234

Schedule of Events

Wednesday, June 12

Registration & Early Bird Party – Cash Bar & Complimentary Hors D'Oeuvres

Thursday, June 13

Registration • Golf Tournament
 Cocktail Party • Buffet Dinner • Awards Ceremony

Friday, June 14

Registration • Buffet Breakfast • Tours
 Cocktail Party • Group Dinners

Saturday, June 15

Buffet Breakfast • Business Meeting
 Ladies Luncheon • Men's Luncheon
 Cocktail Party • Banquet & Dance

Sunday, June 16

Buffet Breakfast • Departure

Costs per person

The costs listed below are for the entire package (6/13 – 6/16) listed above, including hotel room for three nights (6/13-14-15). For special requirements write to Evelyn Cohen for information.

Single Occupancy	\$480.00
Double Occupancy	\$360.00 each
Triple Occupancy	\$320.00 each
Quadruple Occupancy	\$305.00 each

Deposit with reservations – \$50.00 per person – payment in full by April 15th

Cancellation Policy: 60 days prior to convention – \$15.00 per person charge
 30 days prior to convention – \$25.00 per person charge

All cancellations 30 days prior to convention will be subject to a \$25.00 per person charge — full refund (less \$25.00) at the discretion of the convention committee (if funds are available).

Important Notes

Extra Nights: \$70.00 per room + 14.5% room tax. This charge and all charges for incidentals must be paid directly to the hotel upon checkout.

Non-Smoking Rooms: 380

Handicapped Rooms: 4

Parking: If you plan to drive to Milwaukee, please let me know and I will send you a free parking ticket — this is only for hotel guests for the convention nights

Reservations: For guaranteed rooms, all reservations should be in by May 1st. After May 1st only if rooms are available.

Tours: See page 36 for information and reservation form.

Airport Limo Service: \$7.50 per person each way

Campgrounds: Contact Roberta Bull, P.O. Box 30, Circleville, NY 10919, phone (914) 361-2632.

Golf Tournament: Advise Pete Henry, 164B Portland Lane, Jamesburg, NJ 08831 (609-655-0982) if you plan on playing. We do not yet have complete costs and Pete will send the information to you upon request when it becomes available.

CONVENTION RESERVATION FORM ON PAGE 36 

49th Annual Convention - Reservation Form

Name _____ Spouse _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Group for Group Dinner Seating _____ Group for Banquet _____

Single _____ Double _____ Triple _____ Quad _____ Will Share _____ Smoking _____ Non-Smoking _____

Arrive _____ Depart _____ First 2ADA Convention? _____

Deposit _____ Paid in Full _____ Nicknames _____

Triple or Quad Additional Names _____

DO NOT CALL HOTEL FOR RESERVATIONS, CHANGES, CANCELLATIONS, ETC. ALL OF THESE SHOULD BE SENT TO:
 Evelyn Cohen, 06-410 Delaire Landing Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114 • 215-632-3992

Tour Options - Friday, June 14, 1996

1. **EAA AVIATION CENTER**, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, 9 am to 4 pm.
 The EAA Aviation Center is the world's largest private aviation museum. We have contacted the new owner of Delectable Doris and hope they will fly this plane to Wisconsin for our viewing. Bus, tour, and lunch - \$34.00 per person. *Minimum 150 persons*

2. **OLD WORLD WISCONSIN**, 10 am to 4 pm
 One of the country's largest and finest outdoor museums. Step back into the 19th century and experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of pioneer village life. A tram circulates to the 40 pioneer-built farmhouses, barns and shops where authentically costumed staff demonstrate life as it used to be. Bus, tour, and lunch - \$36.00 per person. *Minimum 40 persons*

3. **THEATER THEATER**, Milwaukee Central, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm
 Guided tour of either the Pabst Theater or the Reperatory Theater, plus a costume fashion show designed and worn in many theatrical productions. Bus, tour, and lunch - \$36.00 per person. *Minimum 40 persons*

4. **HISTORIC CEDARBURG**, 9:30 am to 3 pm
 Wonderful quaint community. Bus, tour and lunch - \$31.00 per person. *Minimum 40 persons*

TOUR RESERVATION FORM — Second Air Division Association — Friday, June 14, 1996

NAME _____ PHONE _____

Trip to EAA, Oshkosh	No. Persons _____	Check Enclosed: Total _____
Old World Wisconsin	No. Persons _____	Check Enclosed: Total _____
Theater, Theater	No. Persons _____	Check Enclosed: Total _____
Historic Cedarburg	No. Persons _____	Check Enclosed: Total _____

Mail this form with your check payable to:

ON THE SCENE, 6961 N. Crestwood Drive, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53209-2721 • Phone 414-352-2840

THE PX PAGE

If you have articles or items for sale that pertain to the 2ADA, they belong on the PX Page.

"BRIEFING"

The International B-24 Liberator Club is dedicated to preserving the history of the B-24 Liberator bomber and its derivatives. Consolidated Aircraft Company designed the Liberator in 1939 in response to the then Army Air Corps request for a long range bomber. The company produced over 18,000 of the twin-tailed aircraft for Army Air Force, Navy, and Allied use during WWII at plants throughout the country including San Diego, California; Willow Run, Michigan; and Fort Worth, Texas.

The club keeps alive the memories of its designers, crews and admirers, and has done since its creation in 1969. Started by the late Robert McGuire, a former B-24 combat photographer, the club has defended the Liberator's reputation for over 25 years. Not considered the most attractive or graceful of WWII's flying arsenal, the Liberator nonetheless provided an incomparable service during the Second World War and during the Korean conflict.

The *Briefing*, the club's quarterly publication, is distributed to over 3,000 club members, as well as to schools, veterans' organizations, and museums worldwide. By sponsoring aircraft exhibits, flying displays, and speaking engagements, the club continues to educate the public about a historic aircraft whose first mission took place long before many of today's citizens were born. Club membership is \$15 per year for U.S., \$18 overseas, and includes a subscription to the highly acclaimed *Briefing*. For more information, contact:

George Welsh, Manager
International B-24 Liberator Club
15817 Bernardo Center Drive
Suite 102, Box 124
San Diego, CA 92127-2322
Tel. 619-679-1957

"ALL THE BEST"

With the help of a little black book retrieved from a momento drawer... a page from the war was recalled. From March '42 to December '43 are the stories of many who were there and those that were lost. Here is a log of missions and memories.

"ALL THE BEST"

a toast to the 329th B-24 Bomb Squadron By W.J. 'Red' Komarek

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BERT STILES Pilot, Writer, Idealist

Many World War II flyers have heard of Bert Stiles, a co-pilot in the 91st B.G. While flying combat he wrote the succinct, hard-hitting memoir "Serenade to the Big Bird." Michener survived the war, as did Wouk, Uris, Mailer and others who helped define American literature in the 20th century. But Bert Stiles lost his life somewhere over Germany, and a potentially important voice was stilled.

Now another former 8th Air Force co-pilot, Robert Floyd Cooper, has written Bert's life story - "serenade to the Blue Lady." Many excerpts from Stiles' writings - poignant, humorous, incisive - are included, along with 35 archival photographs. They help tell the story of one airman's struggle to make sense out of war.

Price is \$15 including postage. Available from Pan Pacific Press at P.O. Box 72090, Davis, CA 95617 or from the author: **Robert F. Cooper, 30 College Park, Davis, CA 95616**

THE 445TH BOMB GROUP (continued)

am continuing my group VP position with the 445th, in addition to assuming editorship of the *2ADA Journal*. I hope that I can do both jobs! I do want to be active with my own group to keep the feel of what goes on, as well as editorializing for the *Journal*. Anyway, I "wuz reelected," although we did bend a few parliamentary procedure rules. At least that's what our guest parliamentarian "Billy" Whitefield, wife of Houston's contribution to the 445th, Don Whitefield, said. No matter, nobody objected!

Finally, upon our returning to Wisconsin, my son Jeff, who got married last September (1994) advised me that his wife Ann will have an "out of body experience" next spring (the birth of my first grandchild). Apparently they didn't try "avoiding the issue" (birth control). Anyway it's a long way from Twyla; she has ten grandchildren and one "double-grand" child. So you see, that's what middle age begets!

By the time you read this, it will be time for "Gobbler Chowdown," or Turkey Demolition Derby en masse, then a very short rest quickly followed by that red suited fellow who puts all of us "in the red," St. Nick, Father Christmas, "Star-Man" (Polish), or just plain Santa "Claws" . . . err, Claus. Wish you all "ze best," as the French say, a very healthy and wealthy 1996, and God bless you all! ■



Editor's Note: J.C. Dodman's article on page 22 of the Summer Journal, entitled "The Tale of the Severed Hand," stimulated the memory of a similar story from Colonel William R. Cameron (44th). We attempted to get them together, but, as the following letter indicates, we just missed. We extend our condolences to the Dodman family.

To the editor:

Thank you for forwarding Colonel William R. Cameron's letter inquiring about J.C. Dodman's article about the "bloody hand." Mr. Dodman is (was) my father. He passed away on July 25th. He was 78.

I have written to Colonel Cameron hoping he might share his story with us instead.

Dad had been living with my husband and me for the past three years as his health had deteriorated due to emphysema; he didn't require constant care, but help and meal preparation. But he accomplished his goal: to have a book of his poetry published and delivered to friends and family. His copies of "Break Gently, Morning" arrived July 13th and I had posted all he'd wanted mailed by the 21st. I believe he simply had nothing more to complete in this life and let go.

Please notify all interested parties of my father's passing. His ashes are to be scattered near Sedona, Arizona. If any wish to express their sympathy, send a donation to a charity or plant a tree in memory of J.C. Colter Dodman. Thank you.

Cathy Lynn Dodman Hicks
16822 W. Savage Road
Marana, AZ 85653-9446



Dear Evelyn:

Enclosed please find my check for my membership application. I would have joined sooner had I known about it.

I was watching public television on the anniversary of VE Day and felt kind of "funny." Not knowing who to call, I remembered that Jack Hutchison lived in Newark, New York. I figured how many Jack Hutchisons could live in Newark, New York. I called long distance, got his phone number, and gave him a call. He was watching the same program. We talked about old times and friends, living and dead, and he gave my name and address to you.

It is a pleasure, out of the past, to join with others in our memories, good and bad.

Jack M. Gould (389th)



Dear Evelyn:

The VE Day celebration in Norwich is over; we are back home, and almost back to normal. My wife and I attended this function, our first ever 2ADA meeting. We did not know a soul there and didn't expect to. But we both thought it was one of the most enjoyable and meaningful celebrations of any kind that we had ever attended. We wanted to say "thank you," and I know that a great deal of what went on represented a lot of work and initiative on your part, so we feel that addressing you is appropriate.

We stayed at the Hotel Norwich and so didn't get to rub elbows with you during the week, since you were at another hotel. But we want to say that all the arrangements that were made, the planning and execution of the plans, and the thought and foresight that went into it were all first rate. From the parade on Sunday morning to the final banquet on Thursday night, it was all wonderful. And although we didn't know a soul when we arrived, we knew a number of very fine people when we left. I never realized before what high quality people we have in the 2ADA. Altogether it was an outstanding experience and one that we will remember the rest of our lives.

The purpose of this letter is just to express our appreciation for the work that you did in making all this possible. I know that there were many other people involved, but I doubt that there was anyone else more involved than you. I hope you can convey these feelings to your compatriot who had a hand in helping put this together. It was a great gift that you all provided for the members of this organization.

Leonard R. Howell, Jr. (389th)
3105 Huntington Ridge Circle
Valdosta, GA 31602



To the editor:

One of my hobbies has been collecting WWII nose art, particularly from heavy bombers, the B-17s and B-24s. With almost 5,000 of their pictures, and a database of names going far beyond that, it is possible with the computer to draw some conclusions as to which nose art names were the most popular, as well as to list the cutest names.

List #1 has a couple hundred of what I thought were the cutest and cleverest names, out of lists of almost 16,000 named B-17s and B-24s. List #2 has a comparison of the most popular names, B-17s vs B-24s. The number shown is the number of times that name was found on lists of 8,000 B-17s and 7,700 B-24s.

The lists are available if members would enjoy seeing these names (maybe again!) No strings attached, just happy nostalgia. A hobby shared is a lot more fun than one which just collects dust on a shelf.

Wallace R. Forman
2161 W. County Road B
St. Paul, MN 55113-5333



To the editor:

I became a second lieutenant and communications officer in April 1943. We started in Scott Field in Belleville, Ill. and finished at Yale U. After graduation, I and fourteen others went to Harvard/MIT radar school for six months. Several of us volunteered to be RCM Combat Observers and did our training in Boca Raton, FL for three months. Twenty-seven of us went by ship to England in February '44. We were assigned to a bomb group, I to the 492nd, N. Pickenham, reporting to the group radar officer. The 492nd was shortly disbanded (due to unusual losses?) and assigned to the 392nd, Wendling, for the duration. I served as second lieutenant in the 8th AF until June 1945. There was no T/O for RCM officers.

Each RCM officer had 15-20 enlisted men for air crews and the same number for ground personnel. We took turns flying missions. Three or four men flew each mission in aircraft equipped with electronic jamming equipment to jam German gun-laying radar. We were not assigned to a crew except for each mission. We flew with experienced crews and with crews on their first mission. We did not form a close relationship with any crew. There were plenty of close friends in different crews, but no bonding. A lonely life and a slow tour. In the B-24 the countermeasures equipment, one receiver and three transmitters, were mounted on the flight deck just behind the pilot. Our job was to tune in to a German Wurzbuger radar and set a transmitter on its frequency. The transmitted noise would prevent ranging by the gun-laying radar operator. This did not stop barrages!

I was recalled in June 1950 for the Korean War. The RCM equipment was all WWII. Nothing new! RCM became ECM sometime in the '60s. Now it is a big ART.

The above gives a little idea of the activity, but there is much more to the RCM story. I would like to see more published.

Weems E. Estelle (392nd)
P.O. Box 466
Southport, CT 06490

Ed. Note: Anyone out there who can contribute more on this vital WWII activity?



To the editor:

We have been honoring the memory of a member of our 1942 high school graduating class who was killed in action on November 26, 1944. This member was Lt. Herman Eddie Roberts, a navigator in the 491st Bomb Group (H) and the 854th Bombardment Squadron (H). We have written up Lt. Roberts' life and erected a war monument to the war dead on which he is listed.

I am writing to inquire if any survivors from his Ship 007, S+ are known in your organization. I would appreciate receiving the addresses of any survivors of this ship.

J.G. Crawford
Crawford Construction Co.
P.O. Drawer 240
Paducah, KY 42002-0240



To the editor:

I am looking to correspond with any P-38 pilots (and two in particular) who were on the Kothen mission of 29 June 1944. My grandfather, S/Sgt. Richard K. Hege, right waist gunner on board B-24H 42-95078, flew with the 445th BG, 700th BS on its way to bomb the Junkers engine factory near Leipzig that day. While there is no way to distinguish this particular plane from any of the countless bombers in the sky that day, a few of you may remember this B-24 after reading the following passage from my grandfather's mission notes:

"We had the rudder's controls shot out by flak due to the lead ship getting south of course around Dumar Lake. The cable snapped while in formation, and we all thought this was the end, but we got everything under control.

"We were going to bomb a railroad bridge in some town in Germany, but someone called out fighters. We were flying alone. When we recognized them as our P-38s, we had already jettisoned our bombs. Sparks were really shooting out the yellow-yellow flares for fighter escort. Finally, two P-38s came to our aid and brought us back — they even landed at our base. They flew formation with us and we waved at each other and talked over the radio. We were scared as hell — thank God our little friends were on the ball, as usual!"

While I realize that it is very unlikely that I will find either of those pilots, I feel it is a possibility. After discovering that all ten of my late grandfather's crew are either deceased or unable to be located, I relish the opportunity to correspond with anyone even remotely associated with his crew.

Thank you for your help, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Brent A. Hege
RD 2, Box 778
New Bloomfield, PA 17068

→ → → →

Dear Evelyn:

I thought you might enjoy having a copy of our video of the 50th VE Day Celebration in England in May. It was wonderful! Certainly it was one of the best (if not *the* best) of the 2ADA reunions. We are still talking about it, and I have had a dozen phone calls from other attendees, all with the same message — "It was the greatest!"

Of course, it would not have worked so well without the initiative of certain persons. Evelyn, you deserve all the kudos we can give you. Take your bows.

The people of Norwich were wonderful as a whole. It was unbelievable how much warmth and good feeling was generated during the few days we were there. It was utterly amazing when you look at it in the context of a fifty year span of time.

Joe Sirotnak (458th)
80 Monroe Street
Cedar Grove, NJ 07009

→ → → →

To the editor:

I must come to the defense of my successor as VP of the 446th Bomb Group, Marv Speidel, in his recent letter and editor's comments published in the *Journal*.

Unfortunately, this is difficult because of the utmost respect I have for the long time leadership of the 2ADA, namely Evelyn Cohen and Jordan Uttal. These two people had a dream and made it happen. However, in making the dream come to life it was necessary to make decisions without discussion with the membership. This approach was absolutely necessary in the formative years. But the need for a more open decision-making process arose as more members reached retirement and felt the need to be involved and "make a contribution."

Perhaps my term in office, 1984-1993, was the peak in the involvement curve. Having worked with other volunteer organizations, I recognized that despite the difficulties created, you build "esprit de corps" by making people feel important by giving them jobs to do.

I chaired the V.P. committee appointed by President Thomas to discuss needed improvements in the 2ADA organization. This committee came up with, I believe, nine points, even including raising a million dollars for the library. However, the one suggestion that had the zinger was to allow all groups to participate on the executive committee every year instead of once every 4-5 years. This has been partially adopted so that each group is represented every 2-3 years, thanks to past president Chuck Walker. Of course the other one to rebate to the groups the \$3 surplus in dues for the operation of their group programs was unacceptable. As well as that of the creation of committees for various activities.

So I must say that decision-making is still being made at an indeterminate level instead of the complete involvement of the talented bunch of volunteers that are out there.

After all, with 40 years plus on the streets, most of us grew up and have become responsible and just as capable as our WWII superiors.

Yes, Marv, I agree with you. The 2ADA leadership does not understand the problem, and

furthermore I don't think they want to. The dream is real. The 2ADA is a good group but I don't think it is worth the effort to make it a great group. So put your efforts where they will be appreciated.

Bill Davenport
Former 446th Group VP
13382 Wheeler Place
Santa Ana, CA 92705

→ → → →

Editor's Note: Bill, please define the "indeterminate level" at which decisions are being made if that level differs from the executive committee.

To the editor:

I am a member of the Friends of the Eighth and of the 8th AF Historical Society, and I need anecdotes from your guys — the unknown stuff; everyday things. I also have several new copies of "Little Friends" to swap for 8th AF books of equal value, new or used, especially group histories. Many thanks . . .

Pete Worby
26 Woodgreen
Luton LU28BT
England

Editor's Note: I sent Pete some back copies of the Journal and a few "anecdotes." Anyone else?

→ → → →

To the editor:

I am writing in a last desperate effort to trace pilots, records, etc. or movements of aircraft that flew with "Detachment B" Air-Sea Rescue Squadron from Boxted, Essex, England, May-December 1944, as part of the 65th Fighter Wing, HQ 2AD. I am compiling a book on ASR operations in the ETO 1939-45. Are any of you still out there, or perhaps families who can help?

Sid E. Harvey
17 Priory Rd.
Wrentham
Beccles . Suffolk . England
NR34 7LR

→ → → →

Items Needed for 8th Air Force Heritage Museum Display

The following items are needed for a WWII 8th Air Force display at the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum in Savannah, Georgia. This particular display will highlight the Norway Memorial missions in which nearly 70 of our fellow airmen met their deaths from enemy fire. Needed are: WWII uniforms, any type of combat crew clothing, equipment such as oxygen masks, flak jackets, etc., radio equipment and neck mikes, escape kits and escape kit maps, food ration tins, parachute rings, original general orders, assignment orders, flares or flare holders and guns, original mission logs, briefing information, target maps and bomb patterns, Norwegian and American flags, anything used in escapes, and crew photos (1942-45). Contact Forrest S. Clark (44th BG), 703 Duffer Lane, Kissimmee, FL 34759.

2AD hero Bill Getz receives second Distinguished Flying Cross

On May 9, 1995, at 6th U.S. Army Headquarters, The Presidio of San Francisco, Lieutenant General Glynn C. Mallory, Commanding General of the U.S. 6th Army, pinned the Distinguished Flying Cross on the uniform of retired Air Force Lt. Colonel C.W. "Bill" Getz for a special and dangerous combat mission that he flew over fifty years ago, on December 19, 1944. Colonel Getz wore the Army uniform that he wore in World War II, saying that, "If I am going to receive a decoration I earned in 1944, then I should wear the uniform of 1944 instead of my current-day Air Force blues. It is also fitting that an Army general pin the medal since I was a captain in the Army Air Force in 1944, and I am grateful to General Mallory and his staff for this honor." Captain Getz was 20 years old at the time he completed his second combat tour.

Colonel Getz had originally been cited for the mission by his then commanding officer, Lt. Col. John Brooks, now a retired brigadier general. Colonel Getz was flying P-51 fighter aircraft with the Second Air Division Scouting Force, Eighth Air Force, having earlier completed a 31 mission tour as a B-24, four-engine bomber pilot. Because Scouting Force personnel were on detached service, physically away from their home bomb groups, Brooks surmised that the original paperwork for the decoration was probably lost between the several organizations involved in those hectic wartime days. Retired Air Force Colonel Robert Whitlow, another ex-Scout who led the mission on December 19, 1944, initiated the revival of the citation several months ago together with General Brooks.

The specific mission for which Col. Getz has been decorated is best described by General Brooks and Colonel Whitlow in their letters of commendation:

"On 19 December 1944, the 2nd Air Division was assigned tactical targets in the Trier area.



General Mallory, Colonel Getz, and his grandson Trevor Lortie at The Presidio of San Francisco, May 9, 1995.

Designed to restrict the flow of supplies into the Runstedt Salient, it was of vital importance that these targets be successfully and immediately attacked. At takeoff time extremely inclement weather prohibited all 8th Air Force fighters and most bombardment groups from taking off.

"Realizing the crucial importance of the military situation and that the services of the 2nd Air Division Scouting Force would be of utmost necessity to the success of the mission, the 2AD Scouting Force called for four volunteers. All available pilots volunteered, four aircraft becoming airborne under the most unfavorable weather conditions (ceiling and visibility were zero).

"Captain, then 1st Lieutenant, Charles W. Getz, flying deputy lead of the Scouting Force, became airborne (after a 100% instrument

takeoff) and proceeded in formation through 10/10ths multilayered clouds to the target area. Arriving at the target area, conditions remained 10/10ths with the possibility of the bombers getting through to their objective extremely remote. Flying through these hazardous instrument conditions with his wing man, Captain Getz placed himself at the lead of the bomber formations and with exceptional skill and courage, led the bombers through the cloud layers and into their target areas. Following the radio instructions of his leader, who had remained in the target area, Captain Getz with great calm and precision executed this difficult and hazardous maneuver with consummate airmanship and utmost courage. Giving his leader and the bombers the greatest possible service and cooperation, he was vitally instrumental in the destruction of targets threatening the Allied Forces with unremitting pressure. Although the bombing was by instruments, the Scouts observed oil fires in the target area . . . This extraordinary event . . . was the first and only time in Air Force combat that a heavy bomber force was led to a target area by a fighter airplane."

This is Colonel Getz's second Distinguished Flying Cross, the first having been awarded in August of 1944 while flying B-24 bombers with the Eighth Air Force in England. Colonel Getz also holds the Legion of Merit, seven Air Medals, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and several other medals and battle ribbons. He retired from the Air Force in 1962 at the age of 38 after twenty years and four months of service. Since then he has held senior positions in industry and civil government, and is currently a writer and publisher.

Editor's Note: Lt. Col. (Capt.) Bill Getz served with the 491st Bomb Group and the 2nd Air Division Scouting Force. He is a member of the Second Air Division Association. ■

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