

YOUR HERITAGE LEAGUE

By
Irene Hurner, President
December 2001

I want to send greetings to you from the entire Executive Committee with wishes for a blessed holiday season and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

We are busy with our families, friends and all of the activities that come with this time of year. This is a season for remembering and for creating memories. Many write letters to keep in touch and that is exactly why I am writing to you today. This has been a busy year for your Heritage League. In the last issue of the Heritage Herald, our Communications Vice-President Kathy Jackson, announced that she was retiring as our editor. During the year we have searched for a replacement editor. I am very pleased to announce that during our convention in Norwich, England, Joyce Kerr and her children Pamela, Penny and Jay accepted the position. In the near future an issue of The Heritage Herald will be forthcoming. In the meantime, I have attempted to keep our members informed of the League's activities through articles in the Second Air Division Association Journal, but I am not sure if everyone has seen them. Therefore, I am writing this letter to try to review the accomplishments of your Heritage League since February.

APRIL

In April, at the invitation of 2ADA President Felix Leeton, I traveled to Colorado Springs to observe The Second Air Division Association Executive Committee meeting. I visited with many members, some for the first time. I enjoyed my time very much. It was a wonderful experience to listen to the discussion and to understand the process and consideration of subjects before decisions are made. The Journal editor Ray Pytel was generous with his advice. Before I arrived, the group spent an afternoon and evening at the Air Force Academy. Alfred Asch and sons David and Peter have shared a picture standing in front of the B-24 bronze model in the Academy Memorial Garden at the Air Force Academy.

JUNE

Our Executive Committee met in Dayton, Ohio at the end of June for a long weekend. We were able to combine sightseeing at the Wright Patterson Air Museum with meetings regarding the business of The Heritage League. Jim Lorenz, our liaison to the 2ADA, was able to obtain permission for us to have a private visit to the B-24 Strawberry Bitch. Jim explained the many dials, gauges and other parts of the plane and answered our many questions regarding his flying experiences. Ruth Anderson writes "this was a no frills aircraft in every sense of the expression. One could not stand up straight without encountering some obstacle on which to bang the head. Imagine firing guns out of an open window at high altitude while everything is freezing! Crewmembers had the smallest area in which to carry out their functions. As we took turns in the various seats, there was a tremendous sense of vulnerability to enemy assault. Sitting in the cockpit one can scarcely imagine how the pilots flew the Liberator over the sea carrying out prescribed missions. It had to be a team effort. It may not have seemed so at the time, but compared to present-day aeronautical technology these bombers were primitive. The skill and the courage required to carry out those missions is astounding! This learning experience is one that none of us who were there will forget. It deepened our appreciation of what the veterans did for us and for our country. Thank you, Jim, for the personal tour."

It was noted during the meeting that Kathy Jackson, Communications VP and Bob Books had worked for several months redesigning our Website heritageleague.org. We all appreciate this time and the knowledge that this required. Ed Zobac explained the membership database he has designed. Ruth reported ways in which members have been spreading the word about our organization and read a letter sent with dues notices. Jim Lorenz told of the chain of people who assist in answering queries about veterans during the war. He mentioned that in several instances Phyllis DuBois has helped with research and thanked her for it. Irene reported that Norma Beasley sent information that made it possible for The Heritage League to make arrangements to have a wreath laid during the May Memorial Day ceremonies at Maddingley. Our past presidents including Billy Sheely Johnson, and Craig Beasley have done so in the past. A donation of a book endowment for the Memorial Room was approved, as well as a donation of a book in the name of Milt, Hathy, and Caron Veynar in remembrance of all that they have done on behalf of the League.

SEPTEMBER/NOVEMBER

The shock of September 11 remains with us all. In our prayers we include those who were lost or suffered the loss of friends and loved ones and any who have been lost since that time. As President, I received many notes of sympathy from foreign friends. The tragedy that occurred made members of the Second Air Division Association and The Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF) pause and reflect. Those of us who had planned to attend the rededication of the Memorial Room wondered whether we should go to Norwich as had been planned for almost two years. We did go. The experience was something that could not be duplicated. The week of November 1st through the 9th was a whirlwind of activities. Unforgettable memories and new friendships were formed. The British treated us as most welcome friends.

On November 1 guides were at Heathrow and at Gatwick to take us to a hospitality room while we waited for our bus to take us to Norwich. There were drinks, refreshments, and festive red, white and blue decorations to help us to pass the time.

Our buses left within a short time for the trip to Norwich, about seventy miles northeast of London. We stayed at one of five hotels in the city.

Saturday was a free day for us to explore the city and to visit the newly opened library. Our library is within The Forum and is next to the city library. At the invitation of President Leeton Vicki Warning and I attended the meeting of the 2ADA Executive Committee as observers.

Sunday morning the Second Air Division Association held it's business meeting. In the afternoon our Heritage League and the Friends of the Second Air Division Memorial met at the Airport Hilton for an afternoon social. David Hastings planned the afternoon that was filled with a variety of entertainment. The films Return of the Liberator and One Last Look were shown, speakers welcomed us, the Wyndonham College jazz band entertained us, and a delicious buffet dinner was served. This was a time for the members of our organization to visit, to meet members of the Friends and to get to know one another.

Monday we boarded busses and traveled to Maddingley, near Cambridge for a memorial service at the American cemetery. Jim Lorenz, 467th Vice-President and liaison to The Heritage League served as master of ceremonies. Walt Mundy, President of the Second Air Division and Vicki Warning, the Heritage League Representative to the Board of Governors, joined in the ceremony at which a wreath was laid, prayers said, and taps played. The ceremony was quite moving. Because of an accident on the roadway, our buses were over two hours late arriving, time for reflection and visiting the grounds and chapel was limited. We boarded buses for a trip to one of several halls for lunch. Later many went to visit the Royal Air Force museum at Duxford.

Tuesday Vicki and I were invited to attend the meeting of the Board of Governors of the Memorial Trust along with the Bomb Group Vice-Presidents. Vicki presented Paul King, Chairman, a check for \$1,000 from The Heritage League to endow a book in the new library. As always, we were treated royally. During the day many people went on a tour of the Broads, an area where peat was once harvested, but now has developed into somewhat of a wild life sanctuary with its shores lined with picturesque home, many having thatched roofs. In the evening, the Second Air Division Association was presented The Freedom of the City award by the city of Norwich. This is the highest honor an individual or group may receive. The ceremony was truly unique. Entertainment and a buffet followed.

Wednesday began with a service at 10:00 a.m. in The Cathedral Church of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity of Norwich. The magnificent Norman cathedral, founded in 1096 by Bishop Herbert de Losinga and built to the glory of God, was completed in just fifty years. The cathedral was filled to overflowing as the Bishop led the service, and the Cathedral choir sang. Wednesday was a very busy day, as well. It began in the morning with a service at Norwich Cathedral. This church was built about 950 AD. The cathedral was filled to overflowing as the Bishop led the service, and the boys choir sang. Afterwards, we boarded buses to go to The Forum. A procession from St Peter Mancroft Church of the Bishop, the Lord Mayor, other city officials and officers of the Second Air Division traveled to The Forum. We were treated to a fly-by of the RAF at this time. What a sight to see the planes flying over with the spire of St Peter Mancroft below. It is truly difficult to describe. Inside attendees witnessed a rededication ceremony that included a blessing of the Memorial Room, a presentation by Brian Mahoney for his family of films that his father took while stationed in East Anglia, and a band concert. The original memorial to the veterans of the Second Air Division was a room in the Central Library that included information on the United States and our American way of life. It was dedicated in 1963 and included a reading room, an area to house the Roll of Honor, and a place for our flags. The Memorial Room developed into a library known throughout Europe and was used by scholars, historians, and the public. When a fire destroyed the library about six years ago, plans were immediately begun to replace this memorial. Wednesday was the day for this rededication. Lunch was served and time to explore the new library was given. A short business meeting of The Heritage League was held

immediately afterwards in which officers were elected. I also announced that President Walt Mundy had reappointed Jim and Mary Lorenz as liaisons from the 2ADA. In the evening a banquet that included the traditional candle lighting ceremony, awards, and entertainment was attended by almost eight hundred people. I presented Certificates of Appreciation to Milt, Hathy, and Caron Veynor, as well as to Jim and Mary Lorenz as a thank you for all they have done. This was truly a memorable day.

Thursday was Base Day. We all traveled out to the base areas where our veterans had been stationed more than sixty years ago. The morning began with a memorial service at the village church. Then we were taken to the base site. For the most part, few buildings remain, though some of the runways are still there. The memories that came back to those who were there that day were as vivid as if time had not passed. For my mother, Claire Biel, for my daughter, Gretchen Hurner, for my sister, Christine Argentieri, and for me this was the most special day of all. A time when my father, Albert Biel, could tell us what it was like to be a young man in uniform so far from home. A time when he could help us to envision what he saw, felt, and did when charged with the duty to defend freedom. This was our moment, a time to be savored. I believe that for other members of The Heritage League attending the convention in Norwich the same was also true. In the evening the bomb groups had dinner, visited and realized that this visit to East Anglia was the last hurrah for most. There will be a convention next year in Maryland, but the group as a whole may not ever return to this special place..

Friday morning most attendees bid a poignant farewell to their friends new and old, to the wonderful city of Norwich and to the English countryside. Home was hours away. In the hearts and memories of those attending each will remember the words heard many times throughout the week "They came as friends, stayed friends, and remain friends." We individually mused whether a plan could be devised for just one more get-together in this special country with its special people. Would it be possible?

As we traveled home, we found ourselves understanding the reason that The Heritage League was created. The purpose and goals of our organization include, but are not limited to, carrying on programs to perpetuate the memory of the Second Air Division, to comfort survivors, and to conduct programs for educational purposes. Support of the Memorial Room is the primary focus. The current officers each have a parent who served in the Second Air Division. Linda Wittig, Secretary, whose father, "Moose" Allen was in the 453rd bomb group stated that part of the reason she is a member "is the honor of honoring her father and the other veterans" that she has met. Linda wishes to bring that to our members in hopes that this will pass on to future generations. "If you do not remember the past, we will relive our past. You must remember what these men and women did for us so that we do not have to go through and do it again."

COMMEMORATIVE PIN

All who saw the pin by Caron Veynar to commemorate the rededication of the library praised it. A design combining the American and British flags in red, white and blue suggests the friendship that has developed over the years and remains to this day. These pins are \$5.00 each, plus \$1.00 postage for up to three pins to the same address. Profits are designated for the Memorial Room. If you would like one or more pins, please send the monies to me, Irene Hurner, President, The Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF), PO Box 99, Grovespring, MO 65662. The pins will be sent to you.

THE HERITAGE HERALD

One way for us to keep in touch with our membership is through our newsletter. Articles for consideration to be included in our publication relative to the Second Air Division, it's veterans, spouses, and/or other pertinent information would be appreciated. These may be articles on how life was affected here in the U.S, recipes that helped cope with rationing, as well as articles of interest on various subjects. Please send them to the Joyce Kerr, Editor, PO Box 576, Three Rivers, TX 78071-0576.

WEBSITE

Another way to keep in touch is through visits to our web site. Meeting dates of the Bomb Groups and other information may be sent to me for posting.

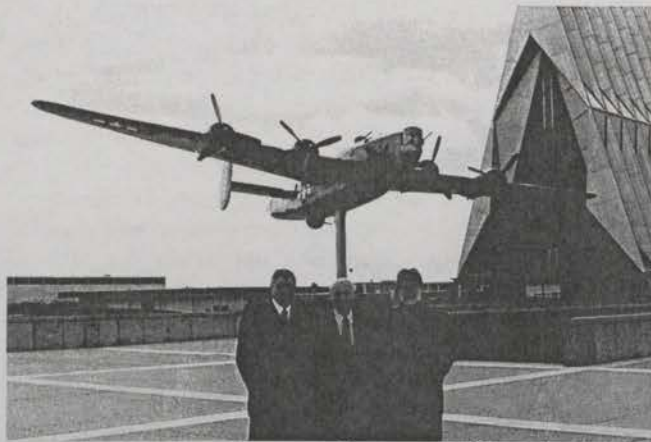
MEMBERSHIP

The League depends on the support of an active, growing membership to enable it to pursue its goals. I want to welcome our new Membership Vice-President Ann Philips who was elected at our business meeting in Norwich. You are encouraged to invite your spouses, children, grandchildren and friends to join The Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF) Eighth Air Force. Together we can ensure that the memory of those who fought for the cause of peace and freedom during WWII and the memorial that they created will continue. **Dues for The Heritage League are \$8.00 per year and are payable in December. Please note above your name on the address label for your expiration date.** For current members, send your renewal to Ann. If you would like to enroll a new member, please send the name, address, telephone number, and relationship of member to veteran,

and the veteran's bomb group if known, with a check to The Heritage League addressed to Ann Philips, Membership Vice-President, 3701 Chiswell CT, Greensboro, NC 27410.

I want to thank you for your support during the past year and to wish each and everyone a blessed holiday and a prosperous new year.

*Best wishes
Irene Hurner
President*



*April - Peter Alfred David
The Asch Family at the Air Force Academy*



*Warren and Ruth Anderson - A view from a Liberator
June - Wright Patterson Air Museum - Dayton, OH*

*Thank
you!*



*Caron Veynar, President Hurner
Milt and Hathy Veynar
November - Convention, Norwich*



*Thank
you!*

*Irene Hurner
Jim and Mary Lorenz
England*

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAME _____

STREET _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

If you have a change of address, please take a moment to fill out the form and send it to the Membership VP. We can save \$.50 on each issue that does not need forwarding. Thank you.

Please note the dues expiration date on the mailing label. If your dues have expired or are about to expire, please take the time now to renew.

If you have received a renewal form, please return the original dues notice back with your payment so that it can be returned to you along with your membership card(s), which is your record of payment. Remember that donations can be used as an IRS record. Thank you!

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.

Name _____ Spouse _____

Street Address _____ Home Tel. _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Work Tel. _____

2ADA Member (Sponsor) _____ Bomb Group or Unit No. _____ Relationship _____

Membership Category (please check) ☐ Regular ☐ Associate ☐ New ☐ Renewal Annual Dues: **\$8.00**

Email: _____ Signature _____

Send Remittance To: Heritage League of the 2ADA, Ann Philips, 3701 Chiswell CT, Greensboro, NC 27410.

Regular Members: Spouses, brothers, sisters, children, grandchildren of former personnel, military and 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 by their 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 2nd Air Division (USAAF) and/or The Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division. These shall be non-voting members.

REMINDER- DUES INCREASED TO \$8.00 JAN 1, 2001

2001-2002 Heritage League Executive Committee

Irene Hurner (453rd)
President
PO Box 99
Grovespring, MO 65662
(417) 462-9109
email: Irene@getgoin.net

Carol Kendrick (466th)
Vice President
4234 E. Desert Cove
Phoenix, AZ 85028
(602) 996-5182
email: cakendrick@aol.com

Linda Wittig (453rd)
Secretary
PO Box 296
Boling, TX 77420
(979) 657-4503
email: lawittig@intertex.net

Edward Zobac (445th)
Treasurer
2211 Foxboro Drive
Fort Wayne, IN 46818
(219) 497-0029
email: ezobac@aol.com

Ann Phillips
Membership V.P.
3701 Chiswell CT
Greensboro, NC 27410
email: annfromnc@aol.com

Kathy Jackson (448th)
Communications V.P.
1027 Keeler St.
Maumee, OH 43537
(419) 891-7335
email: kjackso@accesstoleado.com

Craig Beasley (492nd)
Past President
3459 S. Celebration Dr.
West Valley City, UT 84120
(801) 250-8565
email: beask961@cs.com

Billy Sheely Johnson (492nd)
Past President
P.O. Box 33
Prince George, VA 23875
(804) 732-4234

Jeane M. Stites (453rd)
Past President
9334 Kahl Road
Black Earth, WI 53515
(608) 767-2625
email: jeane@mail.tds.net

Vicki Brooks Warning (466th)
Representative to The Board of
Governors
2736A North Dayton
Chicago, IL 60614
(312) 549-3546
email: vkwarning@attbi.com

Jim & Mary Lorenz (467th)
2ADA Liaison Representatives
5331 E. Poinsettia Drive
Scottsdale, AZ 85254-4716
(480) 951-0343
email: jhlorenz@az.rmci.net

Joyce Kerr
Editor
P.O. Box 576
Three Rivers, TX 78071-0576
(361) 786-1402

2ADA President

Walt Mundy
24030 Basin Harbor CT.
Tehachapi, CA 93561-9638
(805) 821-5101

Chairman, Memorial Trust Board

Paul R King
1 Lime Tree Road, Norwich
Norfolk NR2 2NF, England
email: paulking@paston.co.uk

Liaison to the Heritage League for
The Board of Governors and 2nd AD
Memorial Library

David J. Hastings
"Westering", Salhouse, Norwich
Norfolk NR13 6RQ, England
email: flydjair@aol.com

Ann Phillips
3701 Chiswell CT
Greensboro, NC 27410

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