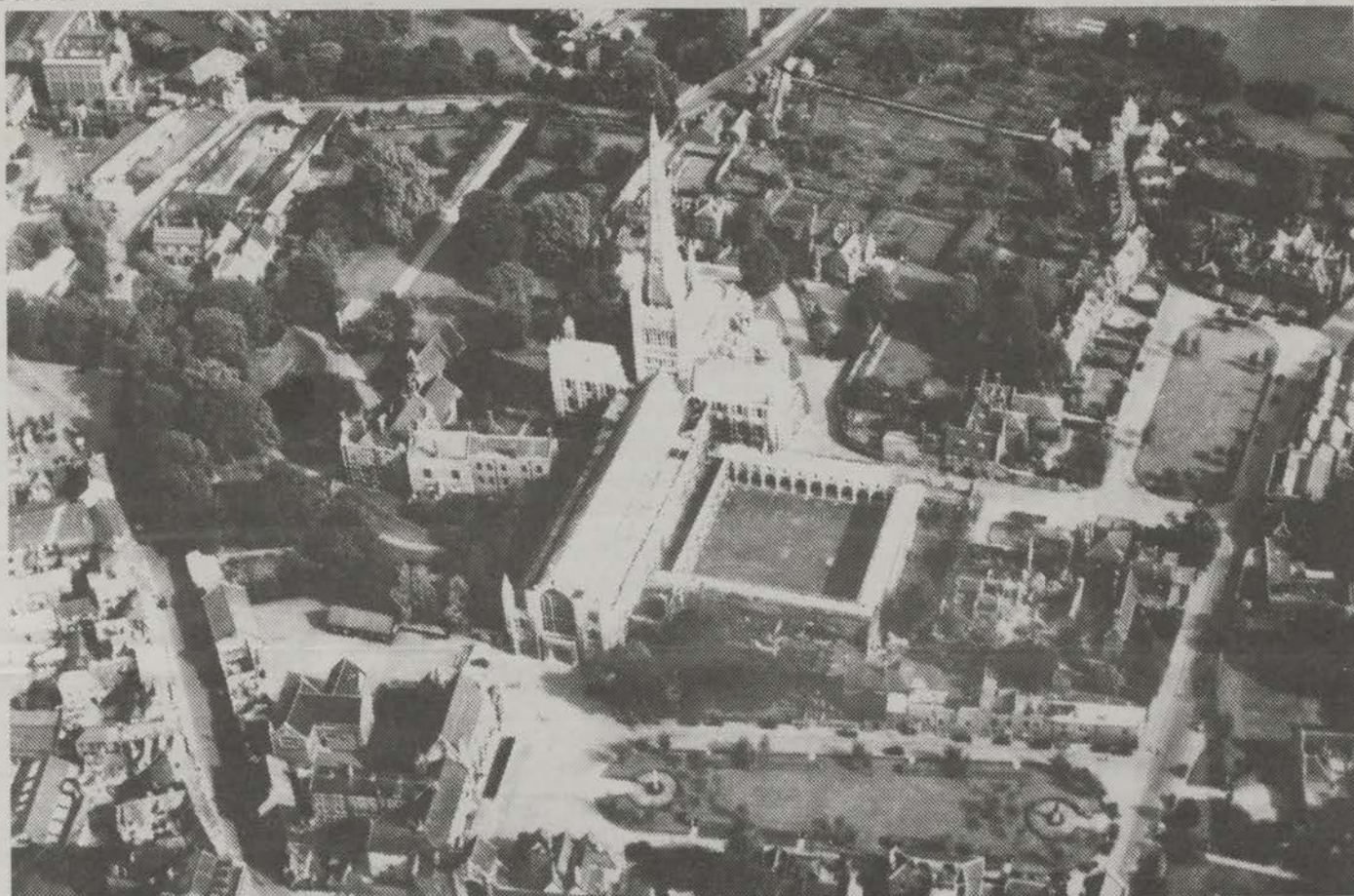


Heritage Herald



Issue 11

May 1993



In Memoriam

That Spring before the war we strolled the meadows, my love and I,
Where the Cowslips rang their yellow bells and Milkmaids and King-cups
nodded shyly in the happy breeze.

He would laugh boyishly-fling out his hands and say "Peaches, just look at
these, isn't this world a wonderful place?"

I knew a vague touch of fear in my heart...thinking, if he really understands
that soon we'll be at war, and have to face such sorrows.

He would laugh again, "I believe tomorrow will be a lovely day, nothing is in
vain. I can be patient now that Spring is here and Primroses survive the nights
fierce rain."

When I mentioned the shadow of a coming war he shook his head in disbelief
and took from his pocket, little envelopes of flower seeds to scatter on the green
banks along a Norfolk lane..."If it should come to that, my sowing will not be in
vain. Other men who walk this way will reap the joy, see the flowers of hope
growing, and the moon look down in time of peace again."

Later-in another May, I walked alone, this much loved country way. Thinking
how the flowers would bloom and nod along the lane...Smiling for that laugh-
ing boy who would never walk this way again.

by Noni Tanger
from "Second Thoughts"

Norwich Cathedral, 1944
Roughan photo

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Please submit material for the next
issue of *Heritage Herald* by July 1.
Mary Beth Barnard, Editor

List of New Members

The Executive Committee welcomes these new Heritage League members, who joined the League during the first three months of 1993.

Barnish, Donna D.

Barnish, Kelly

Belward, Caryl S.

Belward, Hal A.

Bhola, Dorothy T.

Boone, E.G.

Boone, Alfreda S.

Botkin, Judith L.

Bradshaw, Harry C.

Brovitz, Ella

Brown, Lynwood L.

Clark, Mary

Diamond, Jane F.

Dimick, Anna B.

Dimick, Jason

Dimick, Eric

Dimick, Scott J.

Elliott, Gary R.

Freeman, J.B.

Harris, Evan

Hartwell, Andy

Hoffacker, Joanne

Johnson, Terry T.

Johnson, Daniel B.

Koehler, Annette M.

Lane, Grace E.

Lynes, Robert J.

Mohr, Stanley J., III

Mohr, Paul F.

Morrison, Benwayne

Morrison, Rhonda Bee

Price, Rebecca

Rigg, William C., Jr.

Rose, Pauline P.

Schaffer, Mary Lee

Shankwiler, Douglas A.

Shearer, Steven

Sisley, Donna

Sorell, Anthony A.

Stehle, Laureen H.

Stovey, Johnson

Thomas, Daniel B.

Walker, Martha Lynes

Wall, Michael J.

Watkins, Howell L.

Watkins, Maltby F., Jr.

Watkins, Derby H.

Westgate, Nancy L.

Wheeler, Edward

Zakrzewski, Genie E.

Zoubek, Donna J.

445th Reflections

I worked in the AMWD Resident Engineers Office until the base was completed. I then went to work in the ARC Club until the base closed at the end of the war.

The boys of the aircrews maintained that Tibenham was, by far, the best base to take off from, to find on return and to land upon.

I lived on the base and, in my spare time, washed clothes for the residing Officers. These men, in return, bought us food and candy.

Working in the AMWD Resident Engineers Office, I met many Officers of all ranks connected to the 2AD. They were always a friendly bunch and gave us many items of clothing, foodstuffs and candies.

Dances were often organised on the base where we all assembled. The "Jones Boys" were the base band and played at all these functions.

The group achieved 282 missions in all. I remember we used to count them out and when we heard them returning, we would count them in. It was

always a happy relief if all returned safely, but we felt the sadness with the boys if any were missing.

One one occasion, two AMWD Irish workers were observed by my father to peg out four large white sheets at the top end of the main runway. My dad informed the Provost Marshall, Major Sprang, who, in turn, got the civilian police and together they unpegged the sheets and removed them. The sheets were to have been an aiming point for German bombers. Their removal probably saved many lives that night.

Another Irish worker, one of several who were suspected of passing information through to Ireland, thence to German agents, was arrested. Telephones had been tapped and a coded message was decyphered. It wasn't an uncommon occurrence on the bases where many Irish workers were employed. As it was that night, the Germans paid a visit but could not pin-point the target. They dropped their bombs in a nearby field where cattle were grazing. Several of the animals were killed by flying shrapnel.

It was a sad day when the GIs left Tibenham for their homes in the USA.

From an interview with Miss June Bates of Long Stratton by David Neale, Editor of "Second Thoughts"



Fred Roughan, 702 Sq. Photo Dept
Roughan photo

Profiles of our Heritage League Officers

This is the second article profiling our current League officers.

Janice Bates, Secretary

I live in Dexter, Michigan (about fifty miles west of Detroit) and have worked for Printing Services at the University of Michigan for the past thirteen years. I have two daughters; Heather, 21, who lives in Jackson and Jaime, a high school junior. My husband, Jim and I spend much of our time boating in the summer and ballroom and "vintage" (mid 19th century to early 20th century) dancing the rest of the year.

I became involved in the Heritage League because my father was in the 467th Bomb Group at Rackheath, Norwich, England during World War II. He belonged to the ground crew of "Witchcraft", that made over 130 missions without an abort - the best B-24 record in the 8th Air Force. (Guess what we named our boat!) Actually, I became interested in

all of this in the late 60s while still in high school, when my sister and I were able to accompany our parents to reunions.

I have accepted the position of Secretary of the Heritage League in honor of my father, Ray Betcher; in memory of my mother, Doris, who spent an enormous amount of time trying to locate 467th veterans, and in appreciation of the thousands of people who went through so much for me - and for us - during World War II. I am grateful to the past officers for creating what the Heritage League has become and am thoroughly impressed by the enthusiasm shown by our newly elected officers.

Rusty Chamberlain, Membership VP

I was born on April 8, 1946 into an Air Force family. As an Air Force family, we moved often during my early years. Our only overseas tour was to Alaska during the Korean War. Because Dad's assignments for his last 10 years in the Air Force were in the Washington, D.C. area, I was able to go through high school and college from one home base. I graduated from Virginia Military Institute in 1969 and served two years in the 2nd Division. It was not the 2nd Air Division but the 2nd Armored Division where I was a Tank Platoon Leader.

Now, I am a computer programmer in Denver, where I moved to better participate in my favorite pastimes - skiing, hiking and camping. My wife, Kathy, enjoys those same things. Our favorite reading is mysteries and history. We are also quite active in our church.

My two children are Jennifer and Everett. Jenny studies film production at Florida State and is doing very well. Watch for her name as the film credits roll by in the next few years. She is a tennis and football fan and a good tennis player in her own right. Everett is a second grader. He loves sports like soccer, skiing, basketball, tennis, swimming and math. This year he became a Cub Scout. He is also helping me build a model of a B-24H like his Gramps flew.

As a boy I liked listening to my father's tales about his early Air Force days and his time with the 489th Bomb Group. One memory I have from Alaska is of him showing me his leather flying jacket with the "Tiger's Revenge" patch. That was the name of the "new" B-24 his crew received when they got to England. As I grew older I would retell these stories to friends, hopefully with a kernel of truth. Now, years later, I find he was reluctant to "bore" us with this his story. What a privilege to go to a 2ADA reunion and hear these stories from his crew and friends.

I am an Initial Member of the Heritage League, but my real enthusiasm for it came from attending the 2ADA meeting in Colorado Springs in 1988. What great fun. I not only had fun at these reunions, but I met some of the 2ADA's English friends and learned about the Memorial Library.

My hope is that through the League, the Memorial Library and English groups such as the "Friends of the 2AD", we can form a link - two links. One link between future generations of Britons and Americans and their heritage from the mid-twentieth century and the other link to tie those future generations together. It will take desire and effort to keep these links of our shared heritage joined together.



Rusty Chamberlain, Membership VP, and Norma Beasley, past Communications VP and founding editor of the *Heritage Herald*

Minutes of the Sixth General Meeting of Heritage League of the Second Air Division Association

The sixth general meeting of the Heritage League of the 2ADA, a not-for-profit organization, was held at the Riviera Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, on Sunday, October 4, 1992, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., pursuant to call and notice, and a majority of the incorporators (directors) of the Heritage League Corporation.

The following members of the Executive Committee were present: Jeane Stites, Helen Freudenthal, Rusty Chamberlain, Norma Beasley, Vicki Warning and Ruth Berkeley, consisting of a quorum hereof.

The meeting was called to order by President Stites at 1:10 p.m. with 65 people present. It was a strong showing of members but not the largest since the League was founded in 1987. The largest was in Dearborn, Michigan in 1991 with 83 present.

President Stites made a motion that the Secretary's report from the Dearborn meeting, which had been published in the *Heritage Herald*, should be accepted as printed and that copies could be obtained by contacting the Secretary. It was seconded by Ruth Lawson. Carried.

The Treasurer's Report was given by Helen Freudenthal. Milt Veynar followed with the auditor's report, stating that the books were in excellent order. This information was put into a motion by Mary Beth Barnard and seconded by Irene Hurner. It was carried.

The Membership report was given by Rusty Chamberlain, the VP of Membership. The motion for acceptance of this report was made by Helen and seconded by Norma. Carried.

Communications VP, Norma Beasley, gave her report. She emphasized receiving returns and the cost of too many of these. Also, that moving notices were extremely important so that the members would continue to receive the *Heritage Herald*. She thought that younger members who write to the 2ADA Journal should be encouraged to write for the *Herald*. At this point, she told of the Scholarship project for the next year. Irene Hurner made this into a motion. Milt Veynar seconded the motion, and it was carried.

In the President's report, Jeane stated that the Heritage League had had a good year. The T-shirt profit was \$286.20 which we will keep in the treasury and use to help make a larger donation later to something the Heritage League wants to support. She also reported that the Heritage League would continue with the Friends to place a wreath at Madingley Cemetery, Cambridge, England. Jeane thanked David Hastings and Jim Davis for their help in getting the B-24 "Diamond Lil" to England for the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Britain. She further added that Executive VP, Billy S. Johnson, had had a busy and fruitful year, that the Heritage League pins are still on sale, that dues notices are to go out in December before they are due on January 1.

The last report under Old Business was made by Mike Chamberlain on the Pen Pal Project. This program is not moving as swiftly as hoped, but suggested that the Bomb Groups try to promote the project in the villages where they were once stationed. She has found that it isn't just young people who are interested, but older people as well. Norma made a motion to accept Mike's report. It was seconded by Helen. Carried.

We moved on to New Business.

Outgoing 2ADA President, Dick Kennedy, spoke next. He is very impressed by the Heritage League. Our tenor and attitude are good. Dick praised Billy's report to the 2ADA (given prior to this meeting). He said if she had been selling the Brooklyn Bridge, the men would have bought it right then and there. He congratulated outgoing and incoming officers. He told us that the 2ADA archives are in professional order now. This was repetitious but

could stand being repeated because of its importance. "Heritage Center" will have growing pains and trouble with fundraising. This is always so, though, in time we can probably reproduce a Norwich Library in the USA. We must have something in our country for the people who are not able to travel to England. He left us with the information that the 2ADA Executive Committee is firmly behind the Heritage League.

Bud Chamberlain, liaison between the 2ADA and the Friends, was up next. He told us that both the Heritage League and the Friends had trouble getting started, but that we all needed to support these young groups. The Friends are now in their 4th year and the Heritage League is in its 6th. Both have solid bases and solid "doers." One common goal could be to perpetuate where these things happened, that the people in the USA need to be enlightened on these matters. We owe great thanks to the English, to mention a few, Anne Barne, Graham Savill, Tony Kerrison and Keith Thomas. Bud then presented specially made name badges to all Executive Committee members old and new.

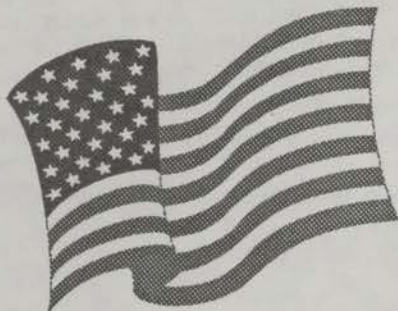
Evan Harris, of the Friends, brought us a message from Graham Savill who was not able to be with us this year. A close village association and 30 new members are helping the Friends to grow. The Friends would like to see it possible for the younger generation of both countries to meet together and thus grow in friendship and accomplish the purpose of perpetuating the memory of those who served in the 2ADA during WWII. In 1992 the Friends donated £500 to the Library, for a total of £2,000 since the group was founded.

Chuck Walker, 2ADA Liaison and 445th VP, applauded the Heritage League and has enjoyed working with us. Bill Beasley, 492nd VP, is the new 2ADA Liaison.

David Hastings brought greetings to the Heritage League from the Memorial Trust and Heritage League members in the UK.

Anne Barne thanked us for the very warm welcome to the English. She hopes that one day it will become possible for

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They Came To Madingley

It chanced I wandered Hardwick way
From Cambridge on a sunny day,
By pleasant lanes in early May
And here I parked, an hour to stay,
Then o'er the trees against the sky
I saw Old Glory flying high
And remembered nearby lay
War Dead of the U.S.A.

'T was Madingley I'd chose to stay
Where often aged couples stray
From several thousand miles away
And at a grave to stand and pray;
Maybe o'er their only son
And clasp the medal that he won
As he was on his fateful way
To come to Madingley to stay.

He may have come from Santa Fe,
He may have known the Great White
Way,
Some came who knew Pacific spray
Blowing in from 'Frisco Bay
They came from North, East, South and
West
Certain their own state was best;
Reckless too with love or pay
Then came to Madingley to stay.

By various paths they made their way
To come to Madingley to stay,
Some bombed Schweinfurt in the day
And, in air-combat's lethal fray
A bullet does not ask what race,
Not even colour of a face
And some could fall to 'friendly' stray
Then come to Madingley to stay.

And these at Madingley do stay
Are very much the same as they
Our Brits: in France or in Maylay,
And "Senseless slaughter" some may say
But such are easy words to speak
For Belsen's chimney ceased to reek
Due to young men such as they
Who came to Madingley to stay.

Oh do not let the Dead March play
O'er these at Madingley do stay
For they were young and old-style gay,
Play their music of the day;
Tunes of Dorsey, songs of Bing,
Let them hear Glenn Miller's swing
Then too the crosses well may sway
With those at Madingley do stay.

Although, in truth, those boys don't
stay
I've 'Knowledge' and I hereby say
The empty bodies are not "They"
Below in that cold Cambridge clay;
Such happy souls don't stick around
In that well-tailored burial ground
But you be sure they see you pray
And pray for you, as you for they.

By Jasper Miles, English Poet
From his booklet-Echoes

A Tribute In Verse to the U.S. Army Corps
1942-1945

Book Review

In Search of Peace by Michael D. Benarcik

There are a lot of things I liked about *In Search of Peace* by Mike Benarcik, a 453rd Bomb Group pilot. One thing I enjoyed was the organization. The story of the 453rd Bombardment Group (H) is told chronologically. The reader sees its place in the history of WWII. But, it is made of many bit-sized pieces with titles like "Making of a Bomber Crew" and "The 'Short Snorter'." This makes it fun and easy to return and nibble on these pieces again and again. Each of these pieces stands on its own. So, keep *In Search of Peace* within easy reach. Also, this book has lots of pictures. Personally, I love looking at these old pictures of airplanes, war buddies, their English friends and bases.

This is the story of the 453rd Bomb Group, but it is also the story of every bomb group. Mr. Benarcik points out that each bomb group and every individual airman went through the same training phases and met similar experiences, from induction to duty overseas to deactivation. He takes the reader through these experiences starting with his own induction and training in 1940, then crew formation and training and on to the birth of the 453rd in June 1943 and its missions over Hitler's Fortress Europe. None of this is dry history. In fact, it is quite readable. Benarcik uses anecdotes from his and other airmen's lives of this period to make it a human story.

Reading this account, I was struck by the nomadic nature of military life during this war. An airman's various phases of training took place at bases all over the country. The 453rd itself trained at bases from Orlando, Florida to Riverside, California before going overseas. This overseas movement is a story in itself. Part of the group went on the Queen Mary from New York to England. The rest flew the southern route by way of Brazil and Africa. By the way, this is where the reader learns about the "Short Snorter."

The largest part of *In Search of Peace* deals with the 453rd's purpose, the bombing of Fortress Europe. Using pictures, illustrations, maps and copies of historical records, Benarcik develops the bombing mission for us from its "birth" at Allied Headquarters to its execution. We all know that each day many hundreds of bomber and fighter aircraft flew to targets in Europe. How they did that in the clouds, keeping "radio silence" and without running into each other has always been a mystery to me. I now have an idea how it was done, but I also learned that "radio silence" was broken and planes did run into each other.

Just as training was the same, in Benarcik's words "Each mission followed the same monotonous routine. Each mission was excitingly and unpredictably different." Also, each participant saw the missions from a different viewpoint. To help us understand this, we see the 453rd's May 8, 1944 mission to Brunswick from several angles. We see it from an overall perspective, from a downed and captured crew's situation, from a gunner's position and from the seat of a P-51 "Mustang."

A big day in the life of the 453rd Bomb Group was D-Day. It flew four missions that day. Talk about all out effort. Some air and ground crew didn't sleep for two days. This coverage gives the reader insight as to the massive nature of this air, sea and ground operation.

In Search of Peace concludes with remembrance and reunion as the 2nd Air Division veterans return to East Anglia. There are articles about the Second Air Division Memorial Trust and Library, the 453rd Bomb Group, the young English boys, now men, who watched the "Liberators" take off and other subjects. It doesn't matter in what bomb group or unit your parent or friend served, I think you will enjoy *In Search of Peace*.

To purchase a copy, write to: Michael D. Benarcik Foundation, 2990 Concord Pike, Wilmington DE, 19803

Rusty Chamberlain

Requests swamp American library in Norwich

Letters fly after agony slot

Advice from an agony aunt thousands of miles away in the United States has unleashed a flood of requests which is threatening to swamp the tiny American Room at the Norwich Central Library.

Scores of letters asking for help, advice and even penpals have been arriving from across the Atlantic.

It started just over a month ago when the library's address was given out by one of America's best-read agony aunt columns, Dear Abby, featured in some 1200 newspapers.

Now, the American Room, set up as a memorial to the US fliers of the Second Air Division stationed in East Anglia during the war, has become the focus for a tide of requests from veterans and their families.

"It's incredible. The letters have been pouring in," said Tom Eaton, chairman of the trust responsible for the room.

Phyllis DuBois, librarian at the American Room, said the sudden popularity started when the Dear Abby column published a letter from a veteran about the library.

"He told me he was writing but I didn't pay it any attention," she said.

The requests have ranged from veterans trying to get in touch with old buddies to one from a woman wanting to trace a book read by her brother-in-law while recovering from his wounds in an English hospital!

Everyone gets a reply - the woman even got the name and details of the book - and the staff at the American Room have even enlisted the help from the Norfolk Records Office downstairs to help with the requests to trace ancestors.

Ms. DuBois, an American who has lived in Britain for 20 years, admits the experience has stretched the library's resources, but added it has also brought surprises - including a letter from one old friend who had lost her address until spying it in the Dear Abby column.

"It's been very peculiar publicity," she said.

News article from Norwich, Norfolk newspaper.

Minutes

continued from page 4

the Heritage League and Friends to have their own convention.

The Nominating Committee Report was presented by Ruth Berkeley. The slate was as follows: Billy S. Johnson, President; Irene B. Hurner, Executive VP; Janice B. Bates, Secretary; Edward Zobac, Treasurer; C.N. "Rusty" Chamberlain, Membership VP; Mary Beth Barnard, Communications VP; Jeane M. Stites, Director (3 years); Ruth Hunter Berkeley, Director (2 years); Vicki Warning, Director (1 year). Nominations were requested from the floor. None were forthcoming. Nominations were closed. A vote was taken, all votes counted, and the above slate are the new members of the Executive Committee of the Heritage League for 1992 and 1993.

President Jeane Stites turned the meeting over to incoming President, Billy S. Johnson, who introduced the new Executive Committee. She requested that as she called their names, that they come forward and tell the membership present why and how they became interested in the Heritage League. It was moving to hear as these new officers told their stories.

Next, Billy introduced Glenn Miller's son, Steve, who is a Heritage League member. Steve said his father enter-

tained at 43 bases, nine in the 2ADA area. His father, a MIA, was the only one in his unit who didn't return. Steve is gathering all the information he can about his father and any other WWII persons he happens to meet.



Steve Miller speaks to the Heritage League
Beasley photo

Dick Kennedy reminded us that the 8th AF was formed in Savannah, Georgia. That is why they feel the Library/Museum should be there. Billy explained our vision of getting a place for our records in Savannah. We are remiss in the USA on this. Dick feels that if Savannah comes into being, it will eventually support itself. There was discussion from the floor that Savannah as a location was objectionable.

At this point, the meeting progressed as Jeane and Ruth stepped down to "turn over the reins" to these new officers of the next generation. Jeane, Ruth and Vicki will continue to give support and guidance as members of the Board of Directors. Jeane, our outgoing President, was then presented a gift for her work with our grateful thanks.

Ruth praised the dedication and tireless effort that three members have given to this organization. They have been the pillars of this group. Gini Belward, who was not present, has been Secretary with Helen F. Freudenthal as Treasurer ever since the League was formed in England in 1987. In 1988, Norma Beasley became Communications VP and has done a truly wonderful job. This league would not have gone forward without their push and perseverance. A small token of appreciation was given to each of them.

Billy, who retained the gavel at Jeane's request, said, "May God ensure your spirits, one and all." Milt made a motion to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Vicki. All voted to end the meeting.

*Virginia Voboril Belward
Secretary, Heritage League*

"Hard-Assed Luck Boys"

(To the tune of "Bell-Bottomed Trousers")

Early in the morning, before the break of day,
Along comes the Sergeant and pulls us from the hay.

"Briefing in an hour boys... at school room number one.

Now don't get excited, it is an easy one."

Chorus:

Singing a hard-assed luck boys

Nothing I can do.

Give me your card and

I'll punch a hole for you.

We stumble to the mess hall to see what we can beg,
and what do you think we get boys,
good old powdered egg.
Next comes the briefing, to answer to roll call.

Will it be Berlin or is it a no-ball?

Chorus:

We wander to the locker room to gather all our stuff.

They don't have our sizes - I tell you boys, it's tough.

Finally we're ready, but then we have to wait

A half an hour or more for the men who navigate.

Chorus:

We go out to the planes to see if things are fit.

We have three turrets out, and all the engines spit.

But that doesn't phase us, we want to do our bit,

We'd rather have to ditch than quit on taxi strip.

Chorus:



Ole King Cole, 700 Sq
42-50565
Walker photo



Collision on runway, 701 Sq
December 1943

We turn into the target, the sky is nearly black -

We think it is a thunderhead, but it is only flak.

We swing from our target and start our journey home,

We hear the jerries singing o'er the interphone.

Chorus:

When we get back to the base, the sky is really dense,

They briefed us for CAVU, but now it is ten-tenths.

We come in for a landing - they fire a red-red flare,

But nobody goes around because he doesn't dare.

Chorus:

Then comes the take-off with all the Libs in line,

The Zebra goes down the way exactly on time.

We make a prop wash take-off, our turbs run away,

Our RPMs fluctuate, we hear the tower say -

Chorus:

Then we assemble around Splasher Six,

Boy, What a rat race! It nearly makes us sick.

We start out on our course and everything is fine -

Until we reach Beachy Head a half hour behind.

Chorus:

We reach the other coast and run into some flak -

There should be a hole there, but there's no turning back.

When we hit the IP, we never know we're there,

Because the Squadron leader forgot to fire a flare.

Chorus:

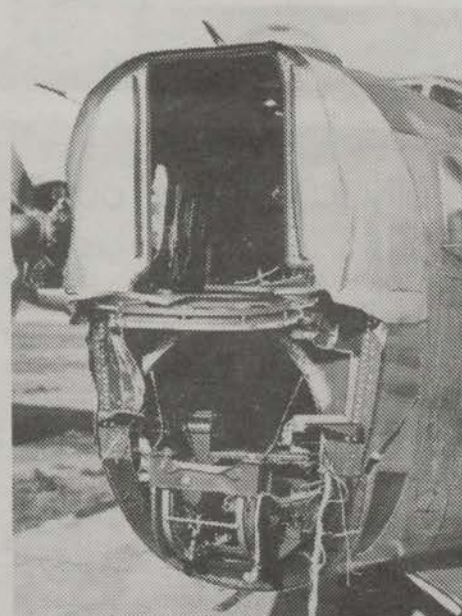
The tail gunner calls us and says there's something wrong,

Both guns are jammed and his oxygen is gone.

The bombardier is fast asleep, the glass is all afrost,

The radio man has fallen out, the navigator's lost.

Chorus:



Thumper, 703 Sq
42-95291
Sept. 13, 1944
Matthews photo

The moral of this story is plain as you can see.

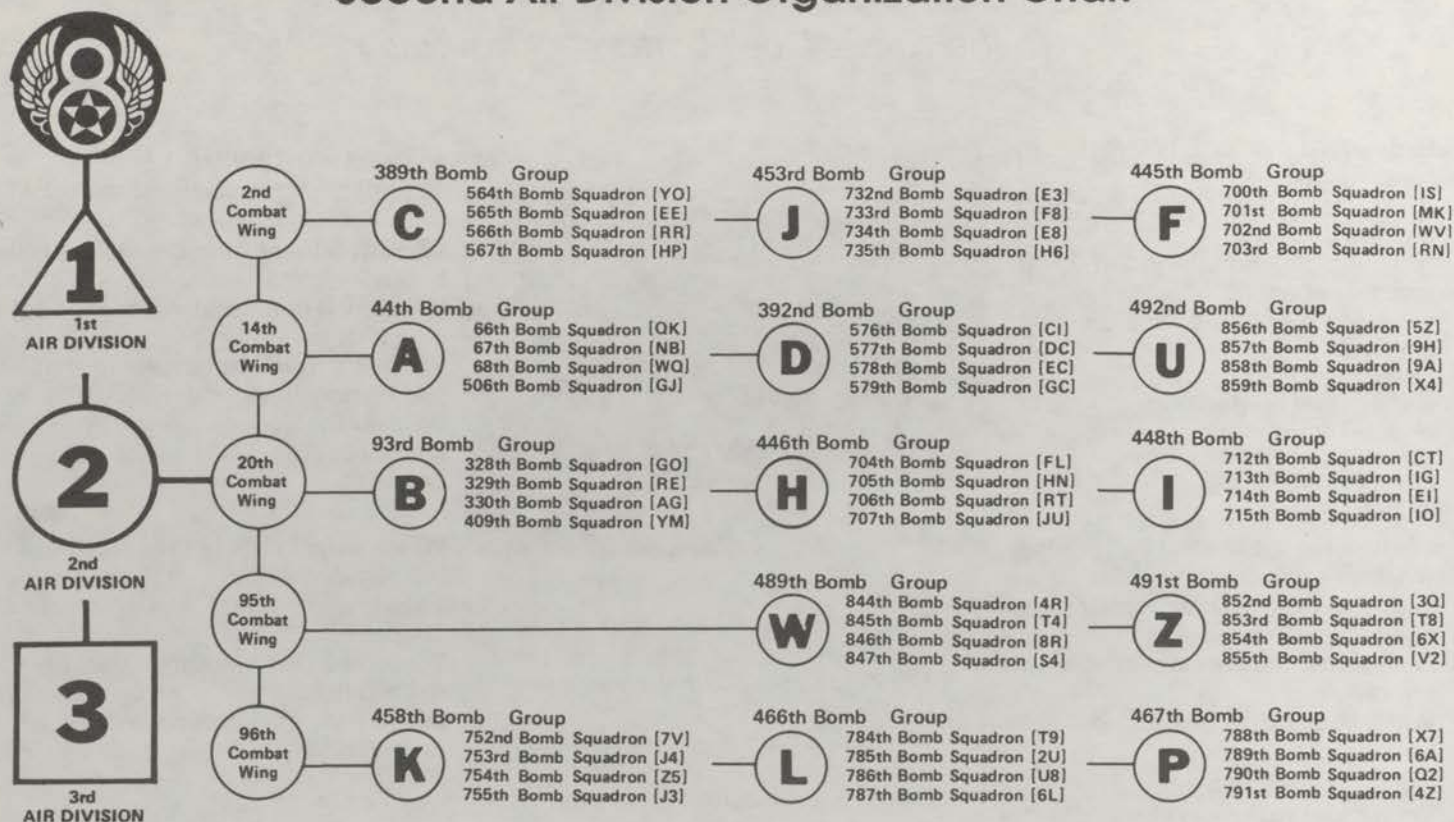
It's never bring your bombs back from old Germany.

S-2 doesn't like it, nor does Colonel T,

You can't go home with twenty-five sorties!

by Lts. Neal, Constable and Avery,
445th BG, 701 Squadron

Second Air Division Organization Chart



from "Fields of Little America" by Martin Bowman,
published by Patrick Stephens, Ltd.

Kelly, a B-24 as tough as the name

On February 15, 1944, 445th BG Liberator #42-7559 lived up to its tough Irish name of *Kelly*. The crew flying in *Kelly* to the target of Siracourt that day consisted of: Lt. Emmett O. Watson, pilot; Lt. Otis L. Rhoney, co-pilot; Lt. Milton Perlman, navigator; Lt. Perry A. Freda, bombardier; T/Sgt. John F. Hadle, radio operator; T/Sgt. Paul Fiore, engineer; S/Sgt. Marvin Alford, ball turret gunner; S/Sgt. Thomas Moore, waist gunner; S/Sgt. Sidney M. Moore, tail gunner and with Lt. W. Robinson as a passenger.

With *Kelly* on the approach to the target, the bombardier ready to press the release, a burst of flak hit the bombsight, damaging it so badly that it was useless. The bombardier, wounded by flak, did not give up. It took the efforts of both bombardier and navigator to drop the bombs on the objective.

As the plane leaped forward from the lightening of its load, it was immediately knocked out of control by a burst of flak that completely tore off the left rudder. The tail gunner, knocked out of

his turret by the blast, still dazed crawled back in to man his guns.

The pilot and co-pilot were so busy trying to regain control of the plane that they forgot to give the "prepare to bail out" signal. The rest of the crew sensed the danger and donned their parachutes, taking no chances.

Tension was eased somewhat when a conversation was held between the co-pilot and ball turret gunner. "Say, we've only got one rudder," Sgt. Alford reported by interphone. "That's all right, that's all right; we only need one to get home," answered the unperturbed Lt. Rhoney. As the plane was brought under control, the crew members returned to their respective duties.

Skillful piloting kept the plane in the air but nothing could be done to keep up with the formation. When *Kelly* began to lag behind, three FW190's prepared to come in for the kill, but T/Sgt. John F. Hadle fired distress rockets to escorting P-47's and the fighters saw the crippled bomber safely to the coast.

As the navigator guided the pilot to RAF Manston for an emergency landing, the engineer tried unsuccessfully to lower the flaps. The hydraulic system had been shot away and *Kelly* came in for the landing at 155 MPH with no flaps or brakes. Troubles continued as the plane touched down. The left tire blew out as the plane landed, again throwing it out of control. *Kelly* crashed into an embankment and a small building before coming to a halt, a total wreck. A small fire in the number two nacelle was quickly put out as the crew escaped from the wreckage without a scratch.

2nd Lt. W.G. Robinson, a passenger bombardier who was flying the mission for the "fun of it" and S/Sgt. Thomas Moore, waist gunner, counted 302 flak holes in the plane. As Lt. Watson took a grateful last look at the Lib that brought them home, he said, "She was just as tough as her name sounds."

from Archives
Mary Barnard

Making Use of Available Sources

The following is an updated listing of resources for getting personal and historical information.

Air Force Historical Research

From the Department of the Air Force, Air Force Historical Research Agency, Maxwell Air Force Base, Alabama 36112-6678, Richard R. Kyle, Historical Officer. "Our collection is composed primarily of unit historical reports. These reports were usually submitted monthly during WWII, but this is not the case with all units. There are some units that have no histories on file here at all. The reports usually primarily focus on mission data, but can also provide information on station life, casualties, awards and decorations, orders, etc. We regret that we do not maintain information on individual personnel."

Bravo Buddy Search

If you are searching for a war buddy of your Dad's or for his unit, you can try Bravo Buddy Search which is published in the magazine Bravo Veterans Outlook. Write to Bravo Buddy Search, P.O. Box 669, Woodland Hills, CA 91365.

National Personnel Records Center Phones

These numbers provide information for persons who wish to receive documents and/or information from military personnel and/or medical records. You will receive a recorded message and be able to leave a name and address to which NPRC will send a Standard Form 180. Calling would speed up the process somewhat.

Air Force 314-538-4243

American Battle Monuments Commission

Claims Division
Casmir Pulaski Building
Washington, DC 20314-0300
202-275-1499

For records and location of burial. If buried in National Cemetery, will send you a photo of grave site. Will also put flowers on father's grave for small fee.

US Army Military Institute Archives

Reference Librarian
Carlisle Barracks, PA 17013-5008
717-245-3611

Has many holdings on history of battles and specific outfits of the military. They publish bibliographies and may have one on your Dad's outfit. Research Library, Have Photos, Maps, Audio Visual Films of WWII, Unofficial Personal Items, Letters, Diaries. Open to Public.

How to Locate Anyone Who Is or Has Been in the Military: Armed Forces Locator Directory

Ordering address: Military Information Enterprises
P.O. Box 5143
Burlington, NC 27216
1-800-937-2133

This is a great resource for anyone doing research and trying to locate father, family members, or war buddies. Cost is \$16.00, U.S. postage paid (NC residents add 78 cents sales

tax) check, money order or major credit card. Foreign members would have to check on exchange and postage.

National Archives Exhibit

The National Archives is doing a traveling exhibit called "WWII Personal Accounts, Pearl Harbor to V-J Day": They describe the exhibit in their brochure: "For those who lived and fought through it, World War II was often the most challenging and exciting event in their lives - that in spite of the fact that it was usually filled with boredom and occasionally with terror, and with discomfort, loneliness, and indignity, for such are the things of which great events are compounded."

This exhibition reflects the several facets of the war: that it was terrible, that it was cruel, dislocating, occasionally funny, often tragic. There were many more privates than there were generals, so this exhibition is about real people—some famous, but most unknown—caught in the turmoil of war. Their diaries, documents, letters, photographs, and some of the things they used will show you how Americans waged their war, how they went from innocence and defeat to knowledge and victory, and what they saw, thought, and felt about it as they did so. At the same time, you will see how similar that experience was for those from other countries who fought by their side - and indeed on the other side as well.

Exhibition Itinerary

Herbert Hoover Library, Jan. 30, 1993-April 11, 1993	West Branch, IA
Gerald R. Ford Museum, Sept. 11, 1993-Jan. 3, 1994	Grand Rapids, MI
Jimmy Carter Library, Jan. 29, 1994-May 1, 1994	Atlanta, GA
IBM Gallery of Science and Art, May 28, 1994-Aug. 28, 1994	New York, NY,
John F. Kennedy Library, Sept. 24, 1994-Jan. 2, 1995	Boston, MA,
Ronald W. Reagan Library, Jan. 28, 1995-April 9, 1995	Simi Valley, CA,
National Archives, May 6, 1995-Sept. 10, 1995	Washington, DC,

This information is from the Winter 1992 newsletter of the American WWII Orphans Network, P.O. Box 4369, Bellingham, WA 98227. (206) 733-1678

The Clubmobile

The clubmobile was run by the American Red Cross. It was a converted London Transport single decker bus. The driver was English, and it was manned by two American girls. Its role was to visit the American Air Force bases and supply doughnuts, coffee, candy and cigarettes to the personnel on the bases "free of charge" I might add.

My connection with the clubmobile was because one of these buses was based at Harleston where I was living during the war. I had a job on this after school hours. The job was to clean out the coffee urns and make the doughnuts so they would be ready for the next day's trip. Everything was contained in the bus for making the doughnuts and storing them. There were coffee making machines, and the coffee was of the instant variety and was made on the bases as required. The milk was evaporated and tinned. This was easier than fresh milk. Since sugar was rationed, it was something else to see all the sugar that was used to "dunk" the doughnuts. It took about three hours to make the doughnuts (hundreds of them) and clean up. All the doughnuts had to be put into racks and stored in built-in cupboards. The destination boards at the front and rear of the bus were made into speakers. Music was broadcast from these and played from a record player inside the bus. A small lounge was situated at the rear of the bus which was used by the two ladies while traveling to and from the bases. The bus was stationed on the car park at the rear of the Swan Hotel at Harleston. The driver and the two young ladies lived in the hotel itself. The driver stayed with the bus, but the two young ladies were changed to other duties after about six months. Two of us boys were employed to do the above duties and were paid seven shillings (35p) a week. This was a lot of money in those days for school boys of 13-14 years of age. Not only that, but we could eat as many doughnuts as we wanted.



The Clubmobile at Tibenham
F. Dale photo

An added bonus for me, being mad on aircraft, was that on the weekends we could travel around the bases. Here was a chance for me to talk to my school boy heroes, and aircrews. I could get close to the aircraft "B-24s, B-17s, P-47s, P-51s, various other visiting aircraft" the odd British aircraft that had dropped in over night, mostly aircraft that were damaged or were low on fuel returning from the previous night's raids.

I don't think a lot was known about clubmobiles by the general public. Of all the books I have read about the American Air Force, very few even mention them, and even less show photos of them. Yet, to the GI, they were as popular as the NAAFI to the RAF.

Today I don't think I can eat as many doughnuts as I could in those far off days, but I still retain my liking for them. Every time I see those doughnut making machines, especially at air shows, it brings back many memories.

Dick Wickham
from "Second Thoughts"



Red Cross girl with
Doughnuts and Coffee
at Tibenham
F. Roughan photo

Treasurer's Report

January 1, 1992 through December 31, 1992

Revenue:			
Dues		\$2,134.00	
Donations	\$412.00		
T shirt sales	\$30.50		
Button sales	\$55.00	\$497.50	
Interest		\$124.95	\$2,756.45
Expenses for the current year:			
Office Supplies		\$16.14	
Printing		\$476.22	
Check printing		\$9.12	
Postage		\$478.15	
Gifts			
Paperweights	\$166.32		
Shelving Project	\$1,000.00	\$1,166.32	
Registration		\$8.00	
Wreath		\$31.85	\$2,185.80
Revenue less expenditures for 1992			\$570.65
Revenue over expenditures for prior years			
1/1/92 Balance	\$3,248.73		
Donations accepted for Memorial Fund and Transmitted to 2ADA			
5/18/92	\$25.00		\$3,223.73
Cash on Hand			\$3,794.38

Respectively submitted,

Edward Zobac
Treasurer

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) _____ Unit No. _____ Relationship _____

Membership Category (please check) ☐ Regular ☐ Associate ☐ New ☐ Renewal

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

Send Remittance To: Heritage League of the 2AD, C.N. "Rusty" Chamberlain, III, 9635 West 73rd Avenue, Arvada, CO 80005

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.

1993 Executive Committee

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(303) 756-4766

John B. Conrad (392nd) 2ADA President
2981 Four Pines, #1
Lexington, Kentucky 40502
(606) 266-5269

1993 Reunion Schedule

May 26-28

The 10th annual reunion of the 2ADA Midwest Region will be in Springfield, Illinois. Reunion committee chairman is Willis H. Kirkton, #1 County Road, Chatham, IL 62629.
Phone (217) 483-2114.

May 31-June 3

The 453rd Bomb Group Association will meet at Fairchild Air Force Base, Spokane, WA.
Contact: Wilbur Clingan, 8729 Samoline St., Downey, CA 90204.
Phone (310) 806-1954.

July 15-19

Air Force Gunners Association
4th Annual Meeting, Holiday Inn, Bethesda, MD
Contact: James F. Zaengle, 3644 Elk Grove Court, Land O'Lakes, FL 34639
Phone: (813)996-4932

August 21 and August 22

Wings of Eagles Airshow
Theme "Those Fantastic Fighters"
featuring many WWII era fighter aircraft from around the country. For more information contact the National Warplane Museum, P.O. Box 159, Geneseo Airport, Geneseo, NY

November 4-7

The 2ADA Annual Convention,
Hilton Head Island, SC. Contact:
Evelyn Cohen, 06-410 Delaire Landing
Road, Philadelphia, PA 19114

If you are in any of these regions, make plans to attend by contacting the individual listed for further information.



Attention!

To students in Grades 4 through 12:

The Essay Contest sponsored by the Heritage League is underway. Guidelines were published in the last issue of the Herald or may be obtained from Billy S. Johnson. Be a participant and make your veteran relative proud of you!

C.N. "Rusty" Chamberlain
9635 West 73rd Avenue
Arvada, CO 80005



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