

Heritage Herald



Issue 19

February 1997

2 ADA 50th Annual Convention Reservation

Pages 4 & 5

This year also marks the 10th Anniversary of the Heritage League!

The tentative schedule for the Heritage League Meeting is a breakfast meeting on May 25, room to be announced.

Congratulations Essay Contest Winners!

Sara Adair Heath
Freedom: Our Most Precious Heritage
7th Grade

Joshua Craft
My Grandfather's Twelfth Mission
8th Grade

Mike Walton
Honor and Remembrance
10th Grade

Pages 6 - 8

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Visit the Heritage League's Web Page on the Internet.

At the 2ADA convention last year, Jessica Zobac made a comment that it would be really beneficial to have a web page for the Heritage League because we could access so many people that way. Her uncle, Ed Zobac asked her to look into creating one. Well, she did more than that! Check it out at:

http://viking.augustana.edu/~jessica-zobac/heritage

Although still in its infancy, it should prove to be an invaluable resource. Jessica welcomes any ideas and/or suggestions. Just click on her name to send her email.

Thanks Jessica......Great Job!

UNDER CONSTRUCTION

AS I SEE IT! by Earl Wassom 2ADA Liaison Officer to the Heritage League

In the Spring of 1996, I received a telephone call that changed my attitude from being an interested observer to a very involved participant. The message was from Neal Sorensen, the soon-to-be President of the Second Air Division. In Milwaukee, he became President of the Association for the term 1996-1997. He was making committee assignments and asked me if I would serve as 2ADA Liaison Officer to the Heritage League.

From the beginning, I have been intrigued by the wise decision of the leadership of the Association to involve others in the organization besides the veterans themselves. Now, as an involved participant, I needed to know a little more about the group to which I was acting as Liaison. In a letter dated 15 January 1986, Jordon Uttal to Bud Chamberlain puts in writing the idea... "of doing a piece for the Journal inquiring about the interest of the sons and daughters, brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces of our present active members in forming an auxiliary group to maintain contact with the people of East Anglia and with the Memorial Trust." Thus the idea was planted, the seed germinated, an Application for Recognition of Exception [section 501(a)] was filed in the State of Illinois on 27 February, 1987 and an organizational meeting was held in Norwich on 22 May, 1987 which created the League. Now, ten years later with hundreds of members recruited into the Heritage League, the organization is functioning within its assigned boundaries.

Wars and conflicts have always been of interest to generations which follow. Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, decades removed from the conflict of their ancestors, still meet and research the unpublished facts of the conflict in which their distant relatives were involved. And now, in the fifth decade following WWII and the events of the 8th Air Force in England during the 1943-1945 period, I am constantly in contact with those who are seeking first-hand knowledge of what their fathers, uncles, grandfathers did in the largest and most costly of all wars. From across the United States, from England and France, Holland and the Netherlands, Norway and Switzerland the inquiries come, not only from second generation relatives of the veterans of the 2ADA but from young people who have a genuine interest in researching an aircraft, a mission, or a missing person. They are interested in writing stories and books, of

gathering pictures and artifacts, anything that piques their interest. This curiosity must not only be recognized but encouraged.

In the late 1930's and early 1940's, the veterans of the 2ADA had their interests and entertainments, all quite different than those faced by the Heritage League Members and their children. There were games, some new and others newly popularized: bingo, pinball, miniature golf. There were chain-letters which suggested a something-for-nothing craze and bowling for nightly exercise and socializing. A radio was a luxury which brought both entertainment and information. We all listened to Amos 'n' Andy, Kate Smith, Fred Allen, Jack Benny and President Roosevelt's "fireside chats". If you wanted classical music, there was the New York Philharmonic, the opera and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir on Sundays. Artie Shaw, Tommy Dorsey, Benny Goodman, Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong filled in the secular gaps in our radio and movies entertainment. During the depression, people would sing "Brother, Can You Spare a Dime?" and later, after Roosevelt was elected and jobs became available the tune was changed to "Happy Days Are Here Again!" And on our own we sang and danced to "Flat Foot Floogie with the Flov Flov", "A-Tisket A-Tasket" and other songs equally edifying. And in addition to all of these daily pleasures, add the presence of Adolph Hitler and the Nazi Party into the formula.

Generation gap, well yes and no. In our day, the answering of the \$64,000 question was indeed high finance. Winning this sum made headlines in the paper. Now, it is the Lottery or magazine sweepstakes with winnings in the millions with countless numbers of people participating. Today, we have television, computers, the information highway, travel at the speed of sound, medical technology and electronic gadgets. Your Liaison Officer and all of the 70 and 80 year-olds, your parents and grandparents, both men and women, dreamed of and helped develop many of these innovations. We worked in the educational system of our country which enabled each of you to learn to think and perform creatively, to be good citizens. Hence, you have equipped yourselves and continue to make society better.

continued on next page

Along these lines, each of you, the Heritage League Members, have proven yourselves in the professions and the work place, many of you are parents, and possess and demonstrate exemplary maturity, skills, and understanding. From my vantage point, I envision each of you fulfilling a more vital role in the operation and administration of the Second Air Division. Going back to the January, 1986 quote mentioned earlier that the sons and daughters should be "an auxiliary group to maintain contact with the people of East Anglia and with the Memorial Trust." It is my hope that in 1997 and the years

ahead, the Heritage League members, with the assistance and authority of the 2ADA EXCOM, begin the process of becoming more informed to serve more effectively in the governance of the Second Air Division and have direct involvement with the Memorial Trust through the Board of Governors in Norwich. The average age of the 2ADA Membership, I am told, is now 76 years. Should we live to be one hundred, it is still imperative that the Membership of the Heritage League become more involved in leadership in the maintenance and continuation of our Memorial in East Anglia.

Our sympathy is extended to the family of Ruth Hunter Berkeley, Past President and Director of the Heritage League who died Dec. 2, 1996. She was the wife of Otey Berkeley, 489th Bomb Group. In lieu of flowers, contributions should be sent to:

St. Matthias Episcopal Church Main St. & Maple East Aurora, NY 14052



The 1st Anniversary of the Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum celebration will be held May 15 through May 18, 1997 in Savannah, GA.

Join us for the fun if you can!

Mary Beth Barnard



Please note that this issue contains last year's essay contest winners as well as the Essay Contest Guidelines. Please encourage your young relatives to participate in the 1997 essay contest. The deadline for receiving entries is April 1, 1997. All entries should be forwarded to:

Billy Sheely Johnson 600 Sandhurst Drive Petersburg, Virginia 23805 Craig Beasley received a letter from Lt. Gen. E.G. Shuler, Jr., USAF, Ret. Chairman and CEO The Mighty 8th Air Force Heritage Museum

Dear Craig:

The generous donation to the Second Air Division Assoc. on behalf of The Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum is very much appreciated. This really helps their fund raising effort and I know the Association is also appreciative of the support.

Again, many thanks for the Heritage League's generosity.

Buck Shuler

Special Thank You from The Executive Committee

to Billy Sheely Johnson for 4 years of dedicated service as President, to Mary Beth Barnard for publishing the newsletter for so many years, to the past officers of the executive committee for their service, to the new officers for their acceptance and to the Heritage League members for their patience while we make the transition.

Second Air Division Association 50th Annual Convention - May 23-26, 1997

HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, 17900 JAMBOREE BLVD., IRVINE, CA 92714 • 714-975-1234

Schedule of Events

Thursday, May 22

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

Friday, May 23
Registration • Golf Tournament
Cocktail Party & Buffet • Awards Ceremony

Saturday, May 24
Buffet Breakfast • Tours
Cocktail Party & Group Dinners

Sunday, May 25
Buffet Breakfast • Business Meeting
Men's Luncheon • Ladies' Luncheon
Cocktail Party • Banquet & Dance

Monday, May 26 Buffet Breakfast • Departure

Costs Per Person

The costs listed below are for the entire package (5/23 - 5/26) listed above, including hotel room for three nights. For special arrangements, write or call Evelyn Cohen.

Single Occupancy	\$505.00
Double Occupancy	
Triple Occupancy	
Quadruple Occupancy.	\$340.00 each

Deposit with reservations - \$50.00 per person - payment in full by April 1, 1997

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

Full refund at the discretion of the convention committee (if funds are available).

Important Notes

Extra Nights: \$77.00 single or double occupancy + 8% tax. Triple or Quad - additional \$25.00 per night.

All extra nights and incidental charges are to be paid directly to the hotel upon checkout.

Non-Smoking Rooms: 250

Handicapped Rooms: Non-Smoking - 13 Smoking - 4

Parking: Self Parking \$3.00 per night, Valet Parking \$7.00 per night

Reservations: Must be in by May 1, 1997 for guaranteed rooms.

Tours: See next page for information and reservation form.

Limo Service: John Wayne Airport, Orange County - free pickup by Hyatt Hotel at baggage area, 6 AM to 11 PM.

15 minutes after the hour and 15 minutes before the hour. No reservations needed.

Los Angeles Airport - Super Shuttle - 714-517-6600 for reservations 24 hours before arrival.

Cost: \$20.00 per person each way. Time approx. 40 minutes.

Golf Tournament: Rancho San Joquin Golf Course, Irvine, CA (10 minutes from hotel). Calloway rules for everyone, advise if you need rental clubs. Hotel will provide transportation. Cost: \$60.00 per person. Send reservations and check to:

Harry Orthman, 25382 Adriana, Mission Viejo, CA 92691 (tel. 714-581-0755).

50th Annual Convention - Reservation Form

Address _						
Phone		Group for C	Group Dinner Seati	ing	_ Group for Ba	anquet
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Mail this form with your check or money order payable to:
Whirl-a-Round, 17851 Sky Park Circle, #F, Irvine, CA 92614 Tel. 714-752-9003 Fax 714-752-5853
DO NOT MAIL THIS TOUR RESERVATION FORM TO EVELYN COHEN

Freedom: Our Most Precious Heritage by Sara Adair Heath

My grandfather, Harry Eugene MacDermaid, served as an Air Force navigator stationed with the Second Air Division in England during World War II. Grandpa taught me many things about freedom, love for my country, and patriotism, not by just his words but by his actions. At his home he was so gentle and kind, completely unlike the strict Air Force officer he had to be when he was on duty. He was the most knowledgeable man I knew.

The fight for freedom that Grandpa and countless others fought for was of great significance. It was fought to stop the atrocities of Hitler and the Nazis. Some people try to brush off the thought of war, but when you must fight for freedom those thoughts become vivid and war is no longer a distant blur, it is a reality.

During World War II many people fought for freedom. In doing so many of them lost their lives. The true heroes of our nation, I believe, are not only the ones who gave their lives but, like my grandfather, were willing to do so.

The second Air Division played a very important role in this fight for freedom. If they hadn't been able to do their job with very precise accuracy they could have dropped a bomb on another one of their own airplanes or have dropped it on a small, harmless town where many women and children resided. The danger for the fight for freedom was unspeakable.

Our country, the United States of America, has gained many freedoms that other countries do not have. We have the freedom of speech, the freedom of religion, the freedom to choose our own leaders, and the freedom to go and do what we want. The United States could not stand seeing the Germans take away the freedoms of many Europeans, such as Jews, so we became involved in this conflict.

The Jews did not have any freedoms because Hitler and the Nazis came into their lives and took over everything that they had. They were separated from their families and put into concentration camps which were ordered by Hitler because of his hatred toward them. I don't know how someone could be so mean and cruel but Hitler was certainly that kind of person.

I like being part of a free country. Some of the things that people in the United States or in countries that have similar freedoms do everyday could result in imprisonment or death according to the laws of some countries.

I would like to conclude this essay saying that if you desire to be free and you have the courage and will to be free, then do your best to make it happen just like the veterans of World War II did fifty years ago.

This is dedicated in loving memory to a man I am proud to call my hero; my grandfather, Lt. Colonel Harry Eugene MacDermaid, who, on August 14 of 1995, was given his final orders from his Commander-in-Chief.



My Grandfather's Twelfth Mission by Joshua Craft

It was Sunday, August 6, 1944. The jeep's familiar squeal immediately wakes my grandfather up. A voice yells, "Bechtol's and McCormick, drop your dreams and don your socks-Breakfast at 4:45." This signals Harry Craft and Joe Schelzi to wake up and get ready, it's time for "Bachelor's Bedlam" to fly its twelfth mission.

My grandfather and the rest of his crew had learned of their mission the night before, after dinner, when he found the name McCormick posted. He was no substitute this time, he was flying. He was tense, the heart rate increasing and decreasing throughout the day. He pulls on his socks, brushes his teeth, douses his face with water, and pulls on his uniform, including: long john's, wool pants, a heat wired jump suit with feet and hand attachments, shirt and sweater, a flyer's fleece-lined leather pants and jacket, a flyer's leather helmet, scarf, gloves, and fleece boots.

The briefing started at 5:45, headed by Major O'Neal. My grandfather and the rest of his crew came to the plane shortly after to prepare for a 7:00 takeoff. Bachelor's Bedlam, B-24 J, Crew #38, 753th Squadron, 458th Bomb Group, 96 Air Combat Wing, Second Air Division, U.S. 8th Air Corps, was loaded with twelve five hundred pound guide purpose bombs, and twenty-four hundred gallons of fuel.

Then they took off from Horsham-St. Faith airfield, near the city of Norwich. The group flew east to Soltan and then turned ninety degrees north to the I.P. (Initial Point) and Bucholz. Flak, exploding pieces of .55 mm canisters, met Bachelor's Bedlam near Weyhe, Germany, but no damage occurred.

As the plane approached the I.P., vision, because of flak and bomb bursts, was not as clear as it had been before. Five minutes before bomb drop, the crew spotted a huge flak cloud, one thousand feet thick and one mile long. It was all they could see. The sound of aluminum being pierced by shrapnel was now a constant.

At the I.P. Joe Schelzi tripped the bombs on verbal code, which were later determined to be accurate. Fortunately, Bachelor's Bedlam was not hit at this time. Other planes didn't have such luck. A plane turning right was hit, and one of its wings fell off, and it started to fall. Four chutes were seen coming out. Another plane, probably hit in the gas tank, just burst into pieces.

Then BOOM! Something right above my grandfather's head had been hit. In the navigator's position, you're at the pilot's feet, so he knew something above him had been hit. When he turned around there was a hole about the size of an orange right through his 12" compass. McCormick reported his leg had gone numb, and Davis, the co-pilot, took over.

There was a hole the size of a golf ball in McCormick's knee. He took it well, especially since it was sixty degrees below zero, and his blood froze in mid air. Fortunately, the bleeding stopped quickly and was bandaged.

The plane had fallen behind, but it filled in a spot in the 389th's formation. They headed to Bad Segeberg, and then looped west at the 54th parallel, and met light flak at Itzahoe. Bachelor's Bedlam shot off its red flares to signal an injured airman, and an airman awaited them when they landed. The mission was over.

McCormick had nine weeks of rehabilitation, and then flew another plane. Mel Fields flew Bachelor's Bedlam for the remainder of the war. She and her crew spent seven months in England and flew thirty-five missions.



Honor and Remembrance by Mike Walton

A library is a quiet place in which one can learn, understand, and reflect upon history. The Norwich Central Library in Norwich, England stands out because of its purpose and location. Its purpose is to honor those who served in World War II, and the location was chosen so that the English could visit and never forget the Americans who helped save their country. Even today, young and old come to visit so that they can learn, and understand, and remember. The library is more than a collection of war-time souvenirs. The Roll of Honor, flags, maps, tailfins and books on American culture only tell part of the story. Within the library's walls are aging diaries kept by those who served. They echo the battles and emotions of the war years in England. The library houses a fountain which was made out of stones taken from every state. It is significant that all states are represented since all states sent young men to fight and die. Collectively, these men represented our nation. The shape, size and color of the stones are as varied as the men who arrived in England to fight there.

Early in the war, France had fallen as well as most of Eastern and Western Europe. England stood alone defending its shores and trying to maintain a foothold in Europe. It was England that continued what seemed to be a futile war against Hitler. At the urging of Winston Churchill, the British Prime Minister, the United States entered the war. Suddenly, there were thousands of troops on their way. Air bases sprung up all over England. Stars on airplane wings identified the presence of American bombers in British skies. When Prime Minister Winston Churchill spoke of Britain's finest hour, the Americans were a part of it.

My grandfather, Thomas F. Jeffers, had to leave his wife and unborn child to join the war effort. He flew out of a base in England only to be shot down over Germany. Captured by the Germans, he remained in a prisoner of war camp for months. Death, destruction and deprivation were all around him. The English and the Allies fought on and finally defeated the Germans. The English realized that if it had not been for the Americans, they might have lost their country.

In 1993 my grandfather went back to England to visit the library. Like others, he visited the library because he wanted to remember his fallen comrades. He wanted to relive old memories and learn what happened to those he used to know. Above all, he wanted to show respect to the memory of his friends who never made it home, knowing Europe became their final resting place. The library was a little piece of the United States in England, so in a way, it was like going home.

Tragedy struck the library after his visit when a fire destroyed the building. Many of the irreplaceable items there were saved, but not all. Luckily, many people dedicated themselves to rebuilding. With the same valiant effort usually reserved for war, the members of the Second Air Division Association re-grouped and started over. With the donations of money and memorabilia, the library was rebuilt.

The new library is like the legendary phoenix. The new library rose from the ashes. Like the men who fought there years ago, it continues its noble mission. To quote Mr. Tom Eaton, Chairman of the Second Air Division Association Board of Governors:

"As it has been said, there are only two forces in this world, the sword and the spirit; and in the end, the spirit always wins."

It is the Norwich Central Memorial library, newly built, that keeps the spirit of friendship and sacrifice alive long after the people who fought the war have passed on. Out of darkness comes sunlight, and whether it is victory in war or rebuilding and renewal of the Norwich Library, the bond continues between the English and the Americans. Like gold tested by fire, they have both become stronger.

Essay Contest Guidelines

Foreword:

In the belief that the contributions of the Second Air Division during World War II are valuable cornerstones of the freedom we presently enjoy, the Heritage League will annually sponsor the Heritage League Essay Contest.

The purpose of the contest is to encourage today's youth in the development of their awareness of the contributions made by Second Air Division and, at the same time, to provide the participants with the opportunity to improve their skills in written composition, grammar, punctuation and spelling. A reminder of the courage and sacrifice displayed by those veterans who served during World War II to provide our most precious heritage of freedom serves to renew a dedication toward the value of the human spirit and its' freedom.

Contestants are urged to read and fully understand the following guidelines.

Section I: General Rules

The Heritage League Essay Contest is divided into three levels of competition - Grades 4-6, Grades 7-9 and Grades 10-12.

- 1. Contestants must prepare their essays without assistance other than that needed through personal interviews of veterans and etc.
- Any quotations or copy-righted material used must be identified properly. The contestant shall be fully responsible for the use of such material. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
- The Heritage League shall have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered for use within the Heritage Herald and/or the 2ADA Journal without payment to the author.

Section II: Qualifications for Contestants

- 1. The Contest is open to all descendants of 2 ADA fallen comrades and veterans in the grade levels specified in Section I.
- Participants must enter the Contest by submitting their essay to the Heritage League President who will forward it to the Judging Team.

Section III: Contest Rules

The official broad subjects for entries shall be chosen from the following list; topics may be narrowed as necessary:
a. "What is the Significance of My 2ADA Relative's Military Service During World War II?"
b. "The Purpose of the Heritage League"
c. "A Day in the Life of a 2ADA Veteran During World War II."
d. "Life at Airfield During World War II."
e. "Freedom, Our Most Precious Heritage (as it relates to WWII)"
f. "Why I Would Like to Visit the Old American Bases in East Anglia."
g. "The B-24 Liberator (may be specific about particular positions and their duties and/or the role of the B-24 in WWII.)"
h. "Why I'd Like to Ride on a Restored B-24"
i. "What are the Ties That Bind the Americans and English Since World War II?"
i. "What is the Significance of the Memorial Library in Norwich, England?"

- 2. Essays must be type-written (double spacing required) or neatly handwritten in ink.
- 3. Essays shall contain no less than 300 words nor more than 400 words (Grades 4-6), no less than 500 words or more than 600 words (Grades 7-9) and no less than 700 words or more than 800 words (Grades 10-12). In determining the number of words, every word must be counted, regardless of length. (In footnotes containing quotations, the quoted material must be counted as part of the text.)
- Each entry must begin with a title page containing the following information: name, address and telephone number of the author, grade level and total number of words in the essay.
- 5. The chosen title should be on the top of the first page as well as on the title page.
- Each page, including the title page, should be stapled together, not paper clipped, in the upper left hand corner.
- Each entry will be numbered by the Essay Contest chairperson on the title page and a corresponding number will be indicated
 on the actual manuscript. The title page will be detached so there will be no indication for the entries other than the
 chairperson.
- Judging will be completed by a panel of three judges who will individually rank the entries. Their combined ratings will
 determine the winners.
- 9. Any protest in the conduct of the Judging Team must be made immediately after the condition is noted that brings about the protest. Protests received other than immediately after the winners are announced will not be considered. The Essay Contest chairperson will decide all protests in conformity with the contest rules. The decision of the contest chairperson is final and no higher appeals will be recognized.

Section IV: Scoring

Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical and will conform to the following schedule of points:

points
points
points
points
F

Section V: Penalties

- Failure to write on one of the ten topics listed in Section III, or a topic closely related to one of the ten topics listed, will result
 in disqualification.
- 2. Failure to identify the total number of words in the essay: deduction of 5 points.
- Failure to stay within the prescribed number of words: deduction of 5 points for each 25 words over or under the specified number.
- 4. Self-identification: deduction of 5 points.
- 5. Failure to double space (if typed) or write in ink: deduction of 5 points

Section VI: Awards

The following are the only awards to be given at various levels of the contest:

The Heritage League will award medals for the first, second and third place winners in each of the three grades designated grade levels.

In addition to first, second and third place medals at each level, first place winners will receive Savings Bonds as follows:

Grades 4-6 \$50.00 Grades 7-9 \$75.00 Grades 10-12 \$100.00

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Associate Members: Friends or associate make literary, artistic, historical or other the 2nd Air Division (USAAF) and/or The	valuable contributions to the	2nd Air Divisio	on Association, The Heritage League of

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> Keep Them Flying



Thanks to everyone who contributed articles for the *Heritage Herald*. Please continue to send items of interest about members of the League or of a historic nature. We really need everyone's support. The deadline to submit articles for the next issue is July 1, 1997. *Kathy Jackson*

Kathy Jackson 1027 Keeler St. Maumee, OH 43537

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FIRST CLASS

