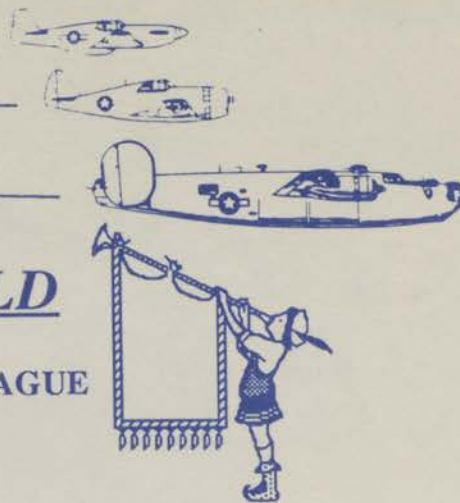




HERITAGE HERALD
of the
2nd AIR DIVISION HERITAGE LEAGUE
~ November 1990
Volume 3 Issue 1



**President's
Message**

What a great time we had in England. We no sooner had arrived than The Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial whipped us off on a wonderful tour in Norwich which included a meeting at Wensum Lodge. This Lodge is a Residential Education Centre established by the Norfolk Education Committee and is quite a complex of buildings and rooms some whose history dates back to 1175 A.D. Graham Savill, Hon. Chairman of the Friends conducted the meeting and, of course, Anne Barne was on hand plus many many of their members. We found out how really active they are--very! We had a lovely lunch in the 12th Century Cellars - arched and vaulted and most fascinating. We then toured Dragon Hall, another centuries old building, which is being renovated very carefully by experts.

Our general meeting was well-attended - you may read the minutes of this meeting elsewhere in the newsletter.

Our next date on the calendar is early July, 1991 in Dearborn, Michigan. I hope that all of you will have the opportunity to attend. We are already on the agenda. Our General Meeting will be at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, the 4th of July. At this general meeting we will be entertaining The Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial who will be attending the Reunion.

Have a Very Good and Peaceful Holiday Season.

Ruth Berkeley



THE EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I was honored to be asked to serve on the Executive Committee of the Heritage League and look forward to a more active role. I hope that I will be able to make some worthwhile contributions.

My husband, Wilbur, and I thoroughly enjoy our involvement in 2nd ADA reunions and activities. As relative newcomers (having learned about the group in 1986) we have been impressed with the friendly, homogenous nature of the organization.

Several Heritage League members have contacted me with welcomed comments and suggestions and I will be keeping notes on those for future recommendations to the Board.

Again, I am happy to be involved and trust we are all committed to the vitality and continued growth of our Heritage League.

Happy Holidays to You All

Jeane Stites



Heritage Herald

of the

2nd AIR DIVISION HERITAGE LEAGUE

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PRESENTING THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE HERITAGE LEAGUE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JEANE M. (SORCHYCH) STITES, EXEC.V.P. was born in Henry, IL; raised and graduated from high school in DePue, IL. She married Wilbur Stites (453rd) on April 21, 1945. She has two children; Will Jr., doctoral candidate at Linda Bennett, V.P. and General Manager, SMD Trucking, Barneveld, WI. She and Wilbur have two grandchildren, Ben and Katherine Stites. Jeane and Wilbur have resided in Wisconsin since 1956. Jeane took early retirement from Oscar Mayer & Company in 1980, after 21+ years. Jeane has held secretarial positions at Deere & Co.; Office of the Dean of Men, Univ. of Illinois, Urbana, IL; Illinois Dept. of Public Health, Springfield, IL; and most recently, limited term employment with Dane CO. Dept. of Social Services, Black Earth, WI. Her hobbies are: sewing (makes most of her own clothing), needlework, golf and reading. She also likes to travel with local tour groups.

E.W. "BILL" CLAREY, 2nd ADA Exec.V.P. and Rep. was born in Omaha, Nebraska. He attended grammar and high school in Bellevue, Nebraska. Bill received a teaching diploma from Peru State Teachers College, Peru, Nebraska. Taught in a grammar school for four years which won the county basketball championship one year. He worked for Pennsylvania Central Airlines for two years before joining United Airlines in March of 1942. Bill enlisted in the Aviation Cadet program, USAAF in February 1943. He became an aviation cadet in class 43K and won his wings in December of 1943. He then transferred to Salt Lake City, Utah for crew assignment. Bill trained in B24's as co-pilot at Biggs Field, Texas before getting ready to transfer overseas. Bill flew his first mission out of North Pickenham, England in May of 1944. After his group was broken up in August, 1944 (492nd B.G.) he was transferred to the 467th B.G. at Rackheath under the command of Col. A. Shower. Bill completed 31 missions and transferred to the Third Strategic Air Depot at Watton, England. 3rd SAD was a repair base for crippled B-24's. He was a co-pilot for a major airline before transferring to a job in flight operations where he retired after 37 years. His wife, Maxine and he have been married for 44 years and have two children, a son in Los Angeles and a daughter in Connecticut. Bill has two grand grandchildren, a boy and a girl.

CRAIG A. BEASLEY was born in Denver, attended Denver Public Schools, received an Associate Degree from Arapahoe Community College, a B.S. and an M.B.A. from Regis College. He is married to April who teaches elementary school. They have two sons, Justin 12 and Chad 9. Craig has his own Management Consulting Business and travels to Boston and New York where he does consulting work for the Air Force and to Honolulu, Hawaii where he does consulting work using his own designed "Phoenix" program with the Queens Hospital. In addition Craig is on the teaching staff at Regis College. When he is not traveling or teaching, he is involved in Boy Scouts and the Heritage Herald Newsletter. Craig enjoys riding his Honda Shadow motorcycle and fishing.



2ND ADA EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

DEFINING HERITAGE

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Since I was nominated for the position of Executive Vice President of the Second Air Division, Eighth Air Force, I also automatically became the liaison between the Second Air Division Association and the Second Air Division Heritage League.

I am sure that all of you know Noah Webster's definition of the word "heritage". Never-the-less, the dictionary explains the word as "that which has been allotted to or reserved for one, it may be inherited by succession, also, anything given or received by your heirs to be a permanent possession. All in all, this is the credo of the Heritage League, in maintaining the idea that none of our history is ever lost.

Now that we have been to England for the last time, as the Second Air Division Association, we all must, more than ever before, see to it that our heirs are kept fully informed as to the part that we all played in helping to keep the world a free place to live. This can only be done by fully supporting the Heritage League in every respect. Thanks for listening.

Respectfully,

Elmer W. (Bill) Clarey
Executive Vice President



TO THE HERITAGE LEAGUE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION

I'd like to express my appreciation, along with the sincere support of 2nd ADA Executive Committee, for the solid contributions made by the Heritage League during our recent Reunion in Norwich. The positive thinking displayed at the League's annual meeting together with the expectation of joint programs in concert with the Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial bode well for the future.

I'm certain we are all well aware of the vital need to communicate, in as an effective manner possible, the story of the 2nd Air Division and its Memorial. We are equally aware of the enormity of the task. The job cannot be successfully accomplished by a dedicated few--all of us must take an active part in the building of the Heritage League. The "active role" each of us can assume is relatively simple--just make a conscious effort to enlist the interest and involvement of our family members. The results will be varied, we all know this. However, we are tapping a large base of potentially interested members, maybe we'll hit "pay dirt". Give it a chance, give it an honest try!

It can be done, I've had the personal satisfaction of seeing one of our daughters and a grandson effect the initiation of a Pen-pal exchange with children from the U.K. We can all look with considerable pride to the article authored by Amy Stokes, granddaughter of our own Lucille and Milt Stokes, that appeared in the Fall issue of the 2nd Air Division Journal. Who among us could not be proudly impressed by the dedication exhibited by Billy Sheely Johnson in her quest to search for those illusive and haunting memories associated with a father she was never able to know. By virtue of sharing time in a place so sacred to all of us, Billy was given the opportunity to reinforce what there-to-fore may have been, at best, somewhat solid assumptions.

You see, it can be done, the message can be carried forward and if we think about it, in a variety of approaches. Let me repeat, give it a whirl!

The coming Holiday Season usually finds families gathering to enjoy that festive time of year. Perhaps this year we might take a moment or two to reflect together on our 2nd Air Division, its history and its Memorial.

Bobbie and I want to take this opportunity to wish you our very best for a most enjoyable Holiday time.



Richard M. Kennedy
President - Second Air Division Association

MINUTES OF THE HERITAGE LEAGUE MEETING IN NORWICH, ENGLAND MONDAY, JULY, 30, 1990

The fourth general meeting of the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF), a not for profit corporation, was held in the City Suite, Hotel Norwich, England on July 30, 1990 at 9:30 a.m. pursuant to call and notice and majority of the incorporators (directors) of the Heritage League Corporation.

The following members of the Executive Board were present: Vicki Warning, President, Gini Belward, Secretary, Helen Freudenthal, Treasurer, Ruth Hunter Berkeley, President elect, Milton Veynar, Past President, and Norma Beasley, Communications Vice President. A quorum was established.

The meeting was called to order by the President, Vicki Brooks Warning, at 9:30 a.m. Thirty-eight members were present: 16 spouses, 9 Second Air Division veterans, and 13 children of veterans of the Second Air Division (a nice showing)

President Warning made a motion that the secretary's minutes from Hilton Head, published in the Heritage Herald, should be accepted as printed. She stated that copies could be obtained by writing to the Secretary. Ruth Berkeley made a motion to accept this proposal. It was seconded by Neal Sorenson. Motion carried.

The Treasurer's report was given by Helen Freudenthal. A motion to accept the report was made by Ruth Berkeley and seconded by Billy Johnson. It was unanimously approved.

Vicki Warning gave the Membership Report for Rusty Chamberlain, Vice President, Membership who could not be present. It was as follows: 7 new members, 36 new members paid up before July 10, 1990; 250 paid-up members. It will take two or three weeks for membership cards to be sent and he asks that we be patient. The number of British people who are joining the League is growing. Helen Freudenthal made a motion that the membership report be approved. It was seconded by Mike Chamberlain. It was unanimously approved.

The President's report was next. Vicki Warning spoke about sending money to the Library directly. She stated that it was better to send money to Jordan Uttal and specify if it is for books, tapes or other. In addition, if the gift is to be dedicated to someone please enclose that information. The Pen-pal project needs enlarging. It was left in the capable hands of Mike Chamberlain. She announced the date of our next Reunion...July 3 through 6 at Dearborn, Michigan. Vicki discussed the subject of an activity for the British Friends while in Dearborn, to be given by the Heritage League. We need a schedule of the Second Air Division Association for this. The Secretary, Virginia Belward will write to all members of the Executive Board of the Second Air Division asking for their help.

Mike Chamberlain spoke about the Pen Pal need and thought that it would be good to match a Second Air Division person or rather grandchild with a British counterpart, or families in the villages where the original members of the Division were stationed. She asked the young people present if they had any ideas on the subject. None were forth-coming. Just don't miss out on the concept of Pen Pals, its aim is to develop a relationship by writing.

Under New Business, the subject of badges arose. It was decided to let the new president handle this item of business via committee; but, it should be done in time for the next Reunion. The subject of dues, so necessary, came up again. It was decided not to do anything until the next general meeting. Bruce Betts suggested a special label for paid-up members or perhaps color-coded labels with dates of dues that are overdue. No decision was made.

Bill Clarey, the new Executive Vice President of the Second Air Division Association, wanted us to think of fund-raising ideas. Barbara Mastellar suggested T-shirts and will check into what is available and will report to Ruth Berkeley, the newly elected President of the Heritage League.

Billy Sheely Johnson spoke about the need to spread the word about both the Second Air Division Association and the Heritage League and what it has meant to her and her children. She thought perhaps tapes could be made for the library by various members of the Second Air Division...they have so much to tell...things that will be very important to their grandchildren.



MINUTES - continued

Vicki spoke about how much going to the Library with her Father, a few months before his death, meant to her. She further stated that the excellent exhibit at the Library was not to be missed while in Norwich.

Because Judge Dietch, one of the League Founder's, was not present, his plaque could not be presented to him. Vicki said she would get it to him since she lives in the same area as he does.

The following members of the Second Air Division Executive Board were in attendance: Richard "Dick" Kennedy, President, E. W. "Bill" Clarey, Executive Vice President and C.N. "Bud" Chamberlain, past President. They all spoke briefly. They informed us that the representation to the Executive Board of the 2nd ADA by the Heritage League had been discussed at one of their meetings and it was decided that we should not have any representation at this time. The Executive Vice President, E.W. "Bill" Clarey is the liaison to the Heritage League. They all stressed the importance of the Heritage League in the future of the Second Air Division Association in carrying on the work started and done so well by the Second Air Division Association.

The Nominating Committee report followed. It was given by Milton Veynar. The slate was as follows: Ruth Hunter Berkeley, President; Jean Stites, Executive Vice President; Helen Freudenthal, Treasurer; Virginia "Gini" Belward, Secretary; C. N. "Rusty" Chamberlain, III, Vice President Membership; Norma M. Beasley, Vice President, Communications; Directors: Vicki Brooks Warning, 3 years; Milton Veynar, 2 years; and Mary Beth Barnard, 1 year. Nominations were requested from the floor. None were forthcoming so the nominations were closed. A vote was taken and counted. The above slate of officers were unanimously approved.

Lynette Blanchard, asked about getting an exchange student program going. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ruth Hunter Berkeley presented Caithness paperweights to Milt Veynar, the first president of the Heritage League and to Vicki Brooks Warning, the out-going President. Both were surprised and pleased with their gifts.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mike Chamberlain to adjourn the meeting. It was seconded by Norma Beasley and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Virginia Voboril "Gini" Belward
Secretary, Heritage League



WE NEED MORE PEN PALS... Ann "Mike" Chamberlain needs to hear from you!



As she stated in the general meeting of the Heritage League in Norwich, July, 1990, the aim of the Pen Pals was to develop a relationship by writing. There is so much to be gained by learning about the historical events of World War II and its impact on those of us now. Anne Barne will be happy to work with the villages as is Frances Davies who will work with families. Mike is the coordinator of this project for the Heritage League/Second Air Division. She would like to have someone be a representative in this project from each of the Bomb Groups. So far the groups that have made contact are: the 448th, 491st and 492nd. Don't miss out on this opportunity. Arrangements for a one-to-one correspondence or a classroom to classroom correspondence exchange can be arranged. JUST DROP HER A CARD AND TELL HER YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO BE THE CONTACT PERSON FOR YOUR GROUP OR YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A PEN-PAL OR IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS SEND THEM TO HER! This is a fun activity and our British friends are eager to hear from you. Let's get behind this project and make it successful. Mike's address is 769 Via Sonoma, Palos Verdes Estates, CA 90274

DUES FOR 1991 are due and payable on January 1, 1991---look for the insert in this newsletter. Send your payment to "Rusty" Chamberlain as soon as possible so that you won't miss the next issue of the Heritage Herald. Without the support of the members by payment of dues, this newsletter would not be possible. We do not want to see you miss a single issue but unless the membership dues are paid in a timely manner, we may have to curtail sending the Heritage Herald to those members who are in arrears. FILL OUT THE FORM AND RETURN IT TODAY WHILE YOU ARE READING THIS ARTICLE.!

Membership Report of The HERITAGE LEAGUE of the 2nd Air Division (USAAF)

Our current paid-up strength is 350. This is out of 594 names on our roster. Perhaps you would like to know who we are? Of this paid-up group, over 106 or 33% are spouses, over 122 or 38% are children and over 53 or 16% are grandchildren. I use the term "over" because I recently processed 21 new applications and do not have the break down available yet. We also have the support of 48 associate members; friends and relatives from the U.S. and Great Britain. They are 13% of the membership.

I often receive encouraging expressions of interest and support from new, current and potential members. As I write this, it occurs to me that you too would be interested in these. For future issues I will work with Norma and pass along your comments. If any of you have suggestions or were moved by a visit to Norwich or a tour of one of the flying B-24's such as The All American please write so that we can add these with the rest of the Heritage League. Also, if your membership information as printed on the address label is wrong, tell us so that we can correct it.

	<u>Paid 1990</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Not Paid</u>	<u>% of Total</u>	(Paid not counting the 21)
Spouses	106	149	43	33%	
Children	122	257	135	38%	
Grandchildren and some others	53	93	40	16%	
Associate	48	74	26	13%	
	<u>329</u>	<u>573</u>			
	<u>21</u>	<u>21</u>	(Regular members not broken down)		
TOTALS	350	594	244	100%	

Submitted by
C.N. "Rusty" Chamberlain
Vice President, Membership

Rusty

Treasurer's Report

January 1, to October 31, 1990



Revenue:

Dues	\$2,019.00	
Donations	137.00	
Interest	123.77	\$2279.77

Expenses for current year:

Office supplies	11.04	
Telephone Calls	7.05	
Printing	293.63	
Postage	297.05	
Registration	8.00	
Gifts & Engraving	121.54	
Donation to 2nd Air Division		
Memorial Librarian Fund	500.00	
Bank Printing	<u>4.52</u>	<u>\$1242.83</u>

Revenue less expenditures for 1990	<u>\$1036.94</u>
Revenue over expenditures for prior years	<u>\$1839.45</u>
Cash on Hand as of October 31, 1990	<u>\$2876.39</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Treasurer

Nelen F. Rendenthal

REUNION - NORWICH, ENGLAND, JULY, 1990



Helen Freudenthal, Anne Barne,
Vicki Warning



Norma Beasley, Ruth Berkeley,
Gini Belward



Helen Freudenthal, Ruth Berkeley,
Norma Beasley



Graham Savill, Anne Barne



Milton Veynar



Billy Johnson, Mike and
Bud Chamberlain



Kurt and Vicki Warning



Peter and Michael Wallis



Helen Freudenthal, Gini Belward,
Vicki Warning, Norma Beasley

BRIDGES - By Bud Chamberlain, Past President 2nd ADA

"BRIDGE" has many connotations. There is, for example, a structure over a depression; the upper bony part of the nose; a device to raise the strings on a violin; or, the command center on a ship. There is a wrestler's arch; a partial denture; an electrical measuring instrument invented by Charles Wheatstone--even a card game. But this is about none of those. It is about intergenerational bridges and the importance of building those spans for the betterment of mankind. Believe it or not, there is a deepseated need out there for making that important contact between parents, children and grandchildren. It is particularly important, today, in our mobile society, where it is common for three living generations in any family to be separated by thousands of miles. Even within themselves, these families frequently are fragmented.

The Heritage League offers a vehicle, a bridge, if you will, to help correct that growing problem--a bridge to span the chasm between generations. At the same time, it offers a foundation for building perpetual support for our 2nd Air Division Memorial and all of its meaning. What better backing could the 2nd ADA enjoy than that from a body having strong emotional ties to the people for whom and by whom the Memorial exists. A perfect example of this is expressed eloquently in a letter received from Billy Sheely Johnson. She is the daughter of the late S/Sgt. William Sheely, tail gunner on Lt. Elmer Smiley's crew of the 492nd Bomb Group. He was lost on July 7, 1944, on his 19th mission. Billy was born 108 days later. Her introduction to the 2nd ADA came during our 1990 convention in Norwich. An extract from her letter provides a poignant account of her feelings as follows:

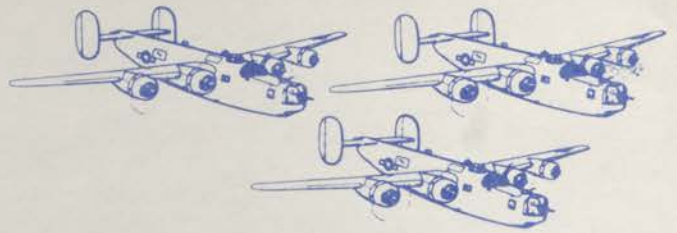
"Words can't adequately describe all that the reunion and its very special memories hold for me...I left Virginia very needy emotionally, but I've surely returned home a very wealthy person emotionally and spiritually. I somehow think it may have been providential that my first experience to physically join with 2nd ADA members and their families needed to be on English soil for me to have the opportunity to share in that very special bonding spirit held between those persons and their descendants. The experience and all the feelings involved can't be duplicated...while I was overcome with joy for myself and for the wonderful peace I've realized after 45 years, I was especially touched for the veterans to have heaped upon them the sincere appreciation (of the British people) after all these years. It saddens me indeed that the same kind of appreciation is not shown them here at home.

Each day of the reunion held its own special meaning for me. I had been so touched by the memorial service and looked upon it as the memorial service my family had never had an opportunity to have; followed by that very special visit to the village of North Pickenham...I'm sure each group received an equally warm welcome, but this day was one in which I felt my dad's presence so keenly. I know that I "walked where he had walked" the last few days of his all too brief life. Then on Monday when it came time to be presented and have the distinguished honor of representing my dad's bomb group in the lighting of the 8th candle for departed comrades, all the wonderful experiences and the feelings associated with them culminated into my absolutely being overwhelmed by the awe and respect I hold for each of the veterans and for the memory of my dad and all of those who gave their lives with him for the noble cause.

I eagerly look forward to sharing more memory making experiences with all of you."

There are other letters like Billy's. One is from Aimee Stokes. You have likely read it on the Fall Journal cover. Another is from Nikki Wall and it appears in the letters section of this issue. To me, these expressions illustrate what the Heritage League is all about --- discovery, understanding, bonding, tranquility. Most of us may not be as eloquent as these young ladies, but I am sure we will find similar sentiments lurking somewhere in each of our hearts. And, the Heritage League is the perfect platform for their expression--especially among the children and grandchildren of our 2nd ADA veterans. The potential bond afforded by these feelings, among succeeding generations and their resultant involvement, bodes well for the future of the League and provides a bridge to the Memorial as well.





WHAT THE HERITAGE LEAGUE MEANS TO ME

By Billy Sheely Johnson

The highest compliment that we can pay our dads and their comrades is to be interested in the whole of their lives...not merely in the portion of their lives we've been privileged to share and therefore feel that we have first-hand knowledge of, but in their lives prior to our creation or early in our lives...the whole of their lives makes up our "Heritage". Our "Heritage" surely includes the portion of their very young lives spent insuring our freedoms in World War II.

I did not have the privilege to share in or have first-hand knowledge of any portion of my dad's life...he was killed in action while participating in the July 7, 1944, bombing mission to Bernburg, Germany. His death occurred approximately 3 months prior to my birth in the fall of 1944; he was very young, 20 years of age.

Now, 46 years later, I find an unquenchable thirst for knowledge of him and what he stood for...this thirst surely includes his association with the Eighth Air Force and the experiences which matured these very young men in such a brief period of time.

Having had the opportunity to share in the experiences of the 43rd reunion of the Second Air Division has been particularly satisfying for me. I am certainly committed to helping insure that the living memorial that organization has begun and the friendships formed with the English, as well as among the veterans, continues to grow. This is my responsibility to my dad, my children and their children...the way to do this is to become actively involved with the Heritage League of the Second Air Division Association.

I heartily encourage all of my generation to wait no longer to pay tribute to your dad and the marvelous roll he played in insuring that you have lived in a free country for the past 45 years. If you happen to be one of the fortunate ones whose dad was allowed to return from England and World War II, don't take his contribution to world peace for granted. If you are especially lucky and still have your dad physically present with you, please become interested in his life during World War II. Believe me, the older we get and the more we become aware of our own mortality, the more we will genuinely need to know our dads so that we can help our children know them. For as they live through us, we and they will live on through our children and on and on it goes.

Enough, Enough Already...no more preaching from me! I look forward to meeting you and sharing life with you, hopefully through the League which fosters our "Heritage"...Second Air Division Association Heritage League.

ORIGIN OF THE MEMORIAL LIBRARY IN NORWICH

In the 1939-45 war over 6,400 Americans, members of the Second Air Division of the Eighth United States Army Air Force, based in Norfolk and Suffolk lost their lives in the line of duty. The Headquarters of the Second Air Division was at Ketteringham Hall, four miles south-west of Norwich. As the war in Europe drew to a close in the winter of 1944-45, three officers at Headquarters, Colonel Milton Arnold, Frederick Bryand and Lt.Col.Ion Walker, conceived the idea of a memorial in Norfolk to the men "who, flying from bases in these parts, gave their lives defending freedom". They received the enthusiastic support of the Commanding General, General Kepner. An appeal for funds for the memorial to all ranks of the Division raised the then amazing sum of 20,916 pounds and a trust was formed with the American and Norfolk Governors to utilise the money raised for a living memorial. In the event, with all the post-war shortages and building priorities, the new Norwich Public Library was not opened until 1962. By this time the Trustees of the Memorial Fund in consultation with the Second Air Division Association, had agreed to utilise a portion of the money in the following way. Firstly, a Memorial Room would be provided in the Public Library, to house the Roll of Honor of the Second Air Division, together with an American Library of American books of general interest and secondly, a memorial fountain would be built in the courtyard of the Library building, incorporating the insignia of the Second Air Division and a stone from each of the States of America. The balance of the fund would be invested to provide income for the purchase of the American books. The Memorial was dedicated on 13th June 1963.



2nd AIR DIVISION MEMORIAL ROOM



HERITAGE LEAGUE PRESENTATION AT FRENCH LICK SPRINGS, INDIANA OCTOBER 10, 1990 By Norma M. Beasley, Communications V.P.

On October 10, 1990 Bill and I attended the Midwest Reunion of the 2nd ADA at French Lick Springs, Indiana. I was honored to be asked to give a report on the Heritage League. I would like to share some of the highlights of that speech which I feel are noteworthy.

"I have been asked many times...What is the League all about...My reply is "Historic Preservation!" You know..all of us here are living history and the onness is on us to preserve that history. One definition of Heritage according to Webster is "Anything given or received by your heirs to be a permanent possession".

"The men and women of the 2nd Air Division contributed greatly to an historic era during World War II and we of the Heritage League are committed to the preservation of that history as well as to support the goals and objectives of the Second Air Division Association.

A counterpart to the Heritage League is the "Friends of the Second Air Division Memorial in England. They also share this same commitment. Presently, both the Heritage League and the Friends are establishing a pen-pal exchange whereby the children in the United States and the children in England can become acquainted through correspondence. What better way to establish a continual flow of historical information. Personally, I am very excited about this project. While we were in North Pickenham (the day of the Villages, July 29) we talked with Tony and Sue Wallis and their two sons Peter age 10 and Michael age 12 and asked if they would like to correspond with our grandsons Chad and Matthew both 9 and Justin who is 12. They thought it was a great idea. Letters have been exchanged between the boys. The boys enjoy the differences in spelling and look forward to receiving the letters and the stamps which they collect. Michael Wallis also corresponds with Chrissy, the granddaughter of Bill and Mary Koon who were also in North Pickenham that day. Both of the Wallis children have 2 pen-pals. Mary Koon writes.. "They both seem to be enjoying being pan pals. Chrissy looks forward to his letters and learning new words like mum (for mother) and pounds for dollars, etc.

I would like to read a letter to you from Mrs. Karen Gill to Mrs. Davies in Norwich, England: (Mrs. Davies is the coordinator of the pen-pal exchange for the Friends)

Dear Mrs. Davies: Enclosed please find 21 pen pal letters from my fourth grade students of Sugartown Elementary School. We are writing these letters in conjunction with the pen pal exchange sponsored by the Heritage League. One of my students, Seneca Beaver, has arranged this exchange through family members belonging to the organization. (Seneca is the granddaughter of Richard and Robbie Kennedy, President of the 2nd ADA) nine and ten, come to us with numerous and varied interests and talents, and were delighted to learn of this endeavor. Enthusiasm regarding this project abounds, and we anxiously await your responses. I have included a class list for your perusal should you wish to match interests and gender. Thank you very much for the opportunity to engage in a cultural exchange of this scope and best wishes for continued success with your program. Sincerely, Mrs. Karen Gill.

I read excerpts from Graham Savill's letter which you will find in the mail call section of this newsletter and pointed out the significance of Aimee Stokes article on the cover of the Journal.

We need your interest and support and urge those of you who have not joined the League to give it serious thought. Your input and support is needed to help this fledgling organization remain airborne. Please send your comments and/or articles for the Heritage Herald the League Newsletter to me. I would appreciate hearing from you."

After this meeting I met with many members who made positive comments; however, there was a thread that ran through many conversations and that being: I think it is a wonderful idea but I can't interest my children.....they don't care to listen." This is undoubtedly true but after you read Aimee Stoke's article, Nikki Wall's letter and Billy Johnson's article I must say...there are many children and grandchildren among us who do want to hear and learn about their Dads and granddads. I charge all of you with this-- Please share your history with us. Communication is a two-way process and I need your comments, your articles, your letters to perpetuate our League Heritage. Time is of the essence!





FRIENDS OF THE SECOND AIR DIVISION MEMORIAL

Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial is a volunteer group formed to act in support of the Governors of the Second Air Division Memorial Room, Norwich Central Library, Bethel Street, Norwich.

The Memorial Room is a 'living memorial' to the young American men and women who served on airfields throughout East Anglia, during WWII.

The Second Air Division flew from many airfields close to Norwich. Survivors of those 'dark days' of WWII will remember the large formations of B-24 Liberators droning across the East Anglian coastline to attack targets in Nazi occupied Europe. Many local people recall the horror of Liberators limping back, engines on fire, controls shot away, crews injured...often dead.

The 'Friends' does not seek to promote war, it does however, seek to remember the great contribution made by the Second Air Division, 8th Air Force, USAAF.

Veterans of this period some 44 years ago, are of an age averaging some 68 years and they remember with great affection, the warmth of the British people especially during such austere times of wartime. Many friendships were forged then; they still endure to this day. It is the proud hope of the 'Friends of the Second Air Division Memorial' that they extend these friendships across the generations, so as to perpetuate the Anglo-American links of yesteryear.

In 1990, possibly for the last time en masse, the Second Air Division return to our shores. Then, over 1,000 of them will be in Norwich once again. They will want to know, 'where they can buy English fish and chips and what became of the pub where they drank 'warm' British beer'? Perhaps one last chance to trace a lost friend...others will wish to visit, some for the first time since WWII, their old airfields, to recall in silent tribute, lost buddies who didn't make it back. These fine people then, veterans of fearful conflicts so necessary at the time; have not only a special place in history, but a very special place in the hearts of the local people. To this end:

The men and women of the Second Air Division are returning to pay their tribute to the local people of East Anglia. It is their declared aim and wish, to meet with the British people, of whom, they have a great affection and admiration.

The Friends of the Second Air Division Memorial, have an important part to play in the success of this forthcoming visit. It is envisaged that schools, clubs, institutes and recreational centres, all may wish to 'host' American visitors during their 1990 Convention, here in Norwich. There are many ways, large and small, ways by which we can all ensure the goodwill of this visit.

Join us as a Friend now, that we might continue to work towards an even greater bond of friendship, between our two great nations. What greater tribute then, could we pay them, or ourselves, than that we should ensure that their 'living memorial' lives on forever.

To join the Friends contact Mr. John Harvey, Membership Secretary, Friends of the Second Air Division Memorial
c/o 'Law-so-Nil', Postwick Road, Postwick, Norwich Telephone: Norwich 33529

Annual subscription: Adult (over 18) 3 pounds
Junior (under 18) 1 pound
Family membership 5 pounds

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All Friends of the Second Air Division Memorial are unpaid volunteers. Any proceeds resulting from their efforts will be used in promoting the work of the Second Air Division Memorial Room, Norwich Central Library, Bethel Street, Norwich.

All donations and subscriptions will be acknowledged. To assist, a SAE would be appreciated.

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LETTER FROM NIKKI WALL
TO EINO V. ALVE, 453RD B.G.



Dear Mr. Alve,

I simply had to write and thank you for your memorable flight yesterday. I doubt you will remember our brief meeting on the airfield (Elmira, N.Y.) as my father was providing my mother and I an informal tour. I will never forget you.

I grew up in the Air Force - loyal to the "Military Brat" legends. I have had numerous opportunities to feel pride and shame over our American policy over the years. I have traveled much of the world between my father's Air Force career and my own Peace Corps adventures. I have never known a country I could love like my own. Dad and I have often opted for opposite viewpoints from Kent State, Viet Nam, and ripped jeans to flag burning. How grateful I am to live in a country that protects our right to disagree.

Sir--I have a lifetime of memories of my father as my "hero." I can remember waiting at Waverly train station for a tall man in "dress blues" who looked like a movie star to me. I remember when he came back from the Korean "trouble" in 1967. I will many times watch him walk past the gates in the airport on his return from Viet Nam in 1970 and pray thanks. Yet, Dad has rarely ever talked about his work. He never talks about war. Then I watched his face light up like magic when he laid his eyes on that B-24. He explained every corner, every detail with such pride. I began to feel like I actually "knew" his crew. I listened to you and him talk about Jimmy Stewart and "Corky's" buzzing the field. We decided to wait and watch takeoff. I saw your brother's deep pride as he joked with my parents.

When you "buzzed" the field for what my Dad called a "send-off" we were all moved--it just took your breath and stirred your heart. But I caught a glimpse of my Dad as I watched you fly overhead. He glowed with a deeper pride than I've ever seen, and there was a youthful, almost mischievous "boyish" acknowledgement in his eyes. I looked around. Somehow all those aging, graying men I had seen reminiscing were younger, standing taller, and beaming a patriotic pride my generation never knew. It almost seemed like magic. I looked back at Dad. He never seemed taller, he never looked more handsome. My hero! And as I walked away, I walked a little straighter, a little taller, despite my crutch. I was so proud to be beside Dad and so proud of being an American. Thank you so very much Mr. Alve. It gave me a glimpse of my hero about 45 years ago (and full of hell and patriotic pride.) You gave me a piece of that pride in my own heart.

Sincerely,

Nikki Wall, Towanda, Pennsylvania.

With permission: The 453rd Bomb Group Assn. Letter



THE ALL-AMERICAN LIBERATOR

An Experience That Changed My Life

By Aimee K. Stokes

In the fall 1990 Journal of the Second Air Division Association, the above captioned article is featured on the front page. Following is an excerpt from this article: "It took over \$1,000,000 to restore the All-American, but for my grandfather, the memories of World War II were priceless. My grandfather flew a B-24 Bomber in the 453rd Bomb Group from 1943-1945. He never lost a plane or a crew member. My grandfather survived 30 missions; World War II is a part of my family's history. That history has been captured in photographs and in picture books, but the war stories and this airplane are the real thing. I have never seen my grandfather as happy as when he is with his "bunchered buddies". They sit around for hours talking about the war showing me pictures. I just listen and smile at them, never really comprehending what the war means to them. Hopefully, that will all change today when I see this bomber and spark something in me and help me to appreciate what my grandfather fought for." If you have not had a chance to read this moving article...I highly recommend you put it on your reading list.

*from the Fall, 1990, Vol.29, No.3 Second Air Division Journal



Mail Call

Dear Mrs. Belward:

Thank you very much for your letter dated 22nd August. I will certainly pass on your kind comments to our staff and Stuart Jones.

There seems to be a lot of action regarding the possibility of individuals revisiting East Anglia in 1992 to celebrate the 50th anniversary. If you decide to come over I do hope that you will drop in to see us.

Yours sincerely,

Peter F. Rudd FHCIMA
Joint Managing Director
Hotel Norwich, Norwich England

Dear Ms Voboril Belward

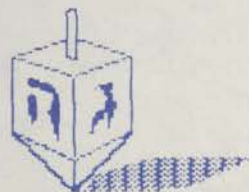
Thank you so much for your recent letter following your stay with us during the Second Air Division Convention.

Jon is taking a well-earned break from his duties at the moment, and it will give me great pleasure to pass on your kind comments to him on his return; I know that he will be very touched by what you say.

The convention seemed to go very well and was a very moving occasion- I hope you all enjoyed being here as much as we enjoyed being your hosts.

Yours sincerely

David Wood FHCIMA
GENERAL MANAGER
Norwich Sport Village, Norwich, England



31st August 1990

Dear Bill and Norma,

Thank you both for your kindness in sending the notelet saying how much you enjoyed your visit to Norwich this July. Goodness! how the time flies--tomorrow is September...I must be getting old! June and I are just back from a few days "R&R" in York, it is such an interesting City and we will visit again, I'm sure. * The photograph of me at Wensum Lodge, "preaching to the converted" is a fun one, but we were pleased you liked our attempt at hosting the League visitors--and, it is the thought that counts after all. We must congratulate you all on the wonderful youngsters you brought over in July. I do hope they have, or will, find pen-pals to write to here. If not, I would delight at writing to any of them if that is in order? Once established, the Pen-Pal idea could develop into exchange visits between pen pals, via Friends and League...or whatever ideas you have? I have just 11 months as Friends Chairman in which to achieve something lasting. I really hope our groups can make an impact on the current interest shown by our youngsters in the making of WWII history--by their Dads and Grandads.

"The seeds are sown-water them well,
that our young alike, believe with Pride.
In their freedom and Heritage born from
the sacrifice of our yesterdays"

Graham Savill
Norwich,

1990

We may get to Michigan next year, but it is not certain that we can. We will do our very best to come over sometime however. Should you, or any of your family/friends plan to visit Norfolk in the future, please let us know. We would like the pleasure of your company.

With love and admiration,
Graham and June Savill

*See picture page



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOVING?

NEW NAME?

In order to keep our membership roster up-to-date, PLEASE SEND ALL NAME AND ADDRESS CHANGES TO ANY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Ruth Hunter Berkeley, President
1049 Lawrence Avenue
East Aurora, NY 14052

C.N. "Rusty" Chamberlain, III
V.P. Membership
9635 West 73rd Avenue
Denver, CO 80005

Norma M. Beasley, V.P. Communications
1525 South Garfield Street
Denver, CO 80210

Virginia V. Belward, Secretary
2231 SW Terrace #A2003
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33324



MEMBERSHIP DUES

PLEASE CHECK YOUR LABELS - The date shown is the date you last paid your dues. Membership renewals are due January of each year.

Example: John Jones
222 Liberty St
Anywhere, USA
(90)

Questions? Feel free to call Rusty Chamberlain.

**WHAT
WILL YOU BE
REMEMBERED
FOR?**

"ARE YOU AN ACTIVE MEMBER?"

Are you an active member,
The kind that would be missed
Or are you just contented
That your name is on the list?
Do you attend the meetings
And mingle with the flock?
Or do you must meet in private
And criticize and knock?
Do you take an active part
To help the work along,
Or are you satisfied to be
The kind who just belongs?
Do you work on committees
To these there is no trick,
Or leave the work to just a few
And talk about the clique?
Please come to the meetings often
And help with hand and heart,
Don't be just a member,
But take an active part.
Think this over, members,
You know what's right from wrong.
Are you an active member,
Or do you just belong?

Author Unknown

DEARBORN REUNION

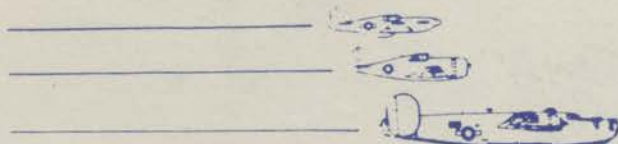
The Heritage League will meet in conjunction with the 2nd ADA in Dearborn, Michigan on July 3 - 6, 1991. Please plan to attend.....you are wanted and needed. For further information contact Evelyn Cohen, 06-410 Delaire Landing RD, Philadelphia, PA 19114. "THE ALL-AMERICAN B-24" is scheduled to make an appearance. If you haven't seen it....this is your opportunity.



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