



HERITAGE HERALD

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Periodical of the Heritage League of the Second Air Division

League Enjoys Warm Convention Alongside 2ADA in Texas

Brian Mahoney

Some might have feared that any convention held at Texas' largest hotel was bound to make the group look small, but happily the numbers of Second Air Division vets and family and friends was considerable, and the program and meals were befitting this gathering: outstanding! Not knowing how many more times our venerable 'last-man-out' parent organization might gather, the Executive Committee of the Heritage League decided to hold our own annual meeting amongst them in Grapevine, a northern suburb of Dallas, from October 17-19, 2008.

If this writer and several other 'second gens' can be counted as representing the 492nd, all 14 bomb groups and Headquarters were represented. All of us, with veteran friends in the various groups, were mindful of friends who have either recently died or are now too frail to make

the trip. This feeling will become more familiar... they were present in our hearts and every retold story.

A documentary project by film students, part of the substantial contingent from Norwich, had veterans talking to the cameras in ways that some of their watching children found completely new and profoundly moving.

This was especially the case for our Membership VP Marybeth Dyer and her sister Karen; their father, Frank Birmingham, and his brother Bob, both served in the same bomb squadron within the 458th BG at Horsham-St. Faith. The moving way they recounted



Among the honored guests at the convention were these representatives from the Board of Governors, (L-R) Matthew Martin (Chairman); Andrew Hawker; Chuck Walker (2ADA Representative on the Board); Joe Dzenowagis, Jr.; David Gurney (Vice-Chairman); Ben Du Brow.

for the camera their fraternal concerns for one another was quite unlike the years of ribbing they and their cousins had known so well before this moment. Frank, remaining on combat and in harm's way after his brother was shot down on an early mission and became an

A Poignant, Dignified Closure—After 65 Years

Brian Mahoney; photos by Sgt. Tommy Van



Sombre Patriots: In center of contingent is MAACRT leader Enrico Schwartz; 2nd from right in front row is presiding Major General Wright.

February 20th brought weather to Northern Belgium that would have grounded 8th Air Force operations in WW II. Soft rain and dense ground fog hovered over the American Battle Monuments Commission Henri-Chapelle Cemetery, where approximately 200 civilian and military personnel and dignitaries gathered to ceremonially mark the significant fact that nine members of the McMurray crew of the ill-fated 492nd Bomb Group, memorialized on the Wall of the Missing, have been positively identified.

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Elmo and Joanna Geppelt (458th BG) may be in line for the best dressed award at the Sunday evening banquet (although the Reuss's could have certainly given them a run for their money). (Photos by Reed Hammans, unless otherwise credited)

internee, revealed how responsible but powerless he had felt trying to watch out for his kid brother. Bob, safe in Sweden, had trouble enjoying the respite; he could only worry about all the remaining missions his big brother had left.

The stand-alone 93rd Bomb Group Association held its reunion nearby and sent a contingent over to visit 2ADA and the Heritage League friends, and congratulate John Lee, a 93rd vet and now the 2ADA President. John Marx, the current 93rd President, is himself a 'second gen' (and a recently retired US Army colonel) and was joined by Heritage League member Michael Sellers, grandson of 93rd vet John Sullivan and a

skilled documentary producer. This same very vibrant and well organized group met in parallel with the Heritage League on our first complete stand-alone member convention (Savannah, 2006), where Michael's screening of the 2001 Trip to Norwich was very well received



Bookends. A fitting end to the convention. Near the end of the final evening, Karen Comia dances with her uncle Bob Birmingham to the strains of "Sentimental Journey."

at the Mighty 8th AF Museum. Our joint Memorial Service with the 93rd, in the Museum's Chapel of the Fallen Angels, was extraordinarily moving for all. We are delighted that they intend to work with the League into the future, and we enjoy their friendship and admire their group's camaraderie-filled gatherings.

445th vet Chuck Walker and his committee saw to memorable entertainment, including an engaging Mark Twain enactor, and an unforgettable moment when the VFW color guard trooped the veterans in to the final banquet with bagpipes—the rest of us were all on our feet, applauding and misty-eyed, for the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was wonderful to have so many of our Trust Governor friends and the new Librarian in attendance, along with an academic contingent from the Norwich University College of the Arts. For some of us this meant enjoyable socializing into the wee hours in the best of company!

Ceremonially, we were delighted to surprise two 'worthies.' 445th veteran and long serving *Journal* editor Ray Pytel was inducted into the League's Hall of Fame on Banquet night; see text on page 28. At our well attended annual member meeting we managed to stun Vicki Brooks Warning, (whose late father served in the 466th BG), with presentation of our highest honor given only once before, the General William E. Kepner Distinguished Life Service Award. As our Representative to Trust Governors for 8 years, she has secured many strong friendships and important organizational collegiality well into the future.

As the next generation, we were particularly pleased at the decision to carry the 2ADA banner forward for a 62nd reunion in Chicago in 2009. We look forward to seeing everyone there for one more go.



While just to their right on the dance floor, Marybeth Dyer dances with her father, Bob's brother Frank. A fitting end to the convention.

MOS 5400

(Trevor Bond, editor of the Friends' newsletter, asked me to contribute a "Letter from America" to the next issue of "Second Thoughts." The first two paragraphs of this column are from that letter.)

In October, I had the occasion to attend my first Second Air Division Association convention in Dallas, Texas. I was most impressed, and more than a little humbled, when I learned how many people had come from England. These included not only members of the Board of Governors and the Memorial Librarian, two students and their tutors doing videotaped interviews of the veterans, but many "civilians" as well—friends of veterans and museum volunteers and their families. This also gave me a better understanding—developing over the last year or more—of the dedication the citizens of the UK have in preserving the history of not only World War II in general, but the Second Air Division in particular.

My awareness was first pricked about 18 months ago, when I received an e-mail from a Seething man named Alan Green, who told me essentially, "We are feeling neglected and forgotten." I explained that I was rather new at the business of the Heritage League, and sent off a couple conciliatory e-mails to some people he suggested. Then I realized, "I don't know anyone!" So I have spent the last year or more trying to rectify that ignorance.

In the process, I have "met" through regular electronic communication a number of wonderful people, in my book, who are doing, as hackneyed as it sounds, amazing things to preserve bases and memorials, to provide programs and information, and who have been unfailingly friendly and helpful every step of the way in my journey of orientation.

Some have very well-established programs, while others are getting underway with high hopes. Co-ordination and support among groups seems to be growing, and seeds planted long ago are bearing fruit on sturdy trunks. The Next Gens in the Heritage League, the Eighth Air Force Historical Society, and the various stand-alone Bomb and Fighter Group associations will do well if we can emulate what is happening in England.

In recognition of the dedication of our UK brothers and sisters, this issue is split between stories on the Dallas convention and individuals and groups in England who are working to preserve the Second Air Division heritage. Please pay special attention to our English contributors' pieces; you will be richly rewarded.

Late breaking news has also allowed us to include the final chapter in the 1944 disappearance and eventual recovery of a Second Air Division crew. This cover story is well-illustrated by the photos of Sgt. Tommy Van, who was instrumental in putting the details together for the ceremony.

And finally, the discerning reader will note a change in our masthead with this issue. The dynamic graphic of the B-24 is by Kelsey McMillan, 389th historian, newsletter editor, and webmaster. She has actually designed a beautiful wrap-around

graphic for front and back of the issue, which we hope to use in future issues. Kelsey has been a periodic contributor to the Herald, and her artwork shows the same quality as her research and writing. Thanks, Kelsey!

--Reed Hammans

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A Brief History of "The Friends"

Trevor Bond

In 1988 one of the founding Governors of the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division USAAF, Anne Barne, suggested at a Governors meeting that the Trust should strengthen the links between the wartime Airfield villages and the Trust. This suggestion was unanimously welcomed and it was agreed that she should call a meeting to see how much interest there was. On Monday October 24th 1988 a meeting was held in the lecture theatre in the old Norwich Central Library and we were amazed to see over 45 people attend. Anne discussed her plans and the meeting agreed to form "The Friends of the Memorial" with Graham Savill becoming the first Chairman. The main object was to link all of the 14 bases and the Headquarters together with the Trust, with each village and base represented.

The support that "The Friends" gave to the Trust in those days was tremendous, especially in the Norwich 2nd Air Division Association Conventions, when The Friends provided most of the Coach Couriers as well as arranging all the Base Day events for all the Bomb Groups and Headquarters. It was agreed that a Trust Governor should attend the Friends Committee meetings and Fran Davies was the first Governor, followed by David Hastings. After the tragic death of Graham Savill, John Page took over as Chairman to be followed by Keith Thomas and then David Neale (not sure if I have got that order right). The Chairman of the Friends also attended all of the Trust Board meetings in order to maintain the close links.

The Friends produced a newsletter "Second Thoughts" edited by David Neale and now by Trevor Bond, which kept everyone in touch. An Annual Thanksgiving Dinner was organized as well as coach trips to many places of interest. Regular film evenings are held in order to show the remarkable "Dzenowagis Video History Collection," which is a priceless gift to the Memorial Library, as well as other aviation films. Also evenings are arranged to hear talks by local speakers on a wide variety of subjects.

The Friends have made many generous donations to the Memorial Library in addition to helping the old bases and US Veterans.

The Friends and the Heritage League now have a reciprocal membership in order to keep the vital links of friendship going down the generations. (The official designation for "The Friends" members within the League is "Heritage Memorial Friends.")

2009 Chicago 2ADA Reunion

Brian Mahoney

We hope you can join us at our Annual Membership meeting in Chicago, September 4-7, 2009, at the Westin-O'Hare Hotel, Rosemont, IL. The Windy City is symbolic for our 'parent organization,' it is here that it was founded. Its central location and easy flying location put its renowned architectural gems in reach for many. We will be alongside the Second Air Division Association for their 62nd Meeting, and especially hope you

might be with us on Saturday morning at 10:45 for our business meeting, including election of the next 2-year officer slate.

2ADA Convention Committeewomen Betty Lee (wife of John, 93rd BG vet and 2ADA President) and Maxine Mackey (wife of 453rd vet and recent 2ADA President Oak) have worked with a professional organizer, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc., to design a full program, including an architectural cruise by boat on Friday (\$58 includes snack), a trip to the Museum of Science and Industry following the Heritage League meeting, and a City Tour on Sunday (both \$45).

Many of the bomb groups represented there will have hospitality suites and the League will either do same, or crash all the parties, looking for new Legacy members among the descendants or enrolling our cherished vets as Honorary Life Members. In any event, it is all about socializing and hearing the "war stories" from the source!

The \$276 registration package includes breakfasts on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, dinners Friday, Saturday and Sunday (choose prime rib or salmon). Our convention hotel rate of \$99 + 13% tax is separate, and good for a few days before and after; one registers with the hotel directly.

Go to our website (heritageleague.org) for full details on the program and facilities, and for downloadable hotel and convention registration forms. One can also directly register and pay for the convention registration at www.afr-reg.com/2ndAir.

Note: If you do not have internet access, request the registration forms and additional information from Reed Hammans, 3828 Columbine Ave., Ames, Iowa 50010. Registration closes on July 30, so allow plenty of time by mailing your request as soon as possible.

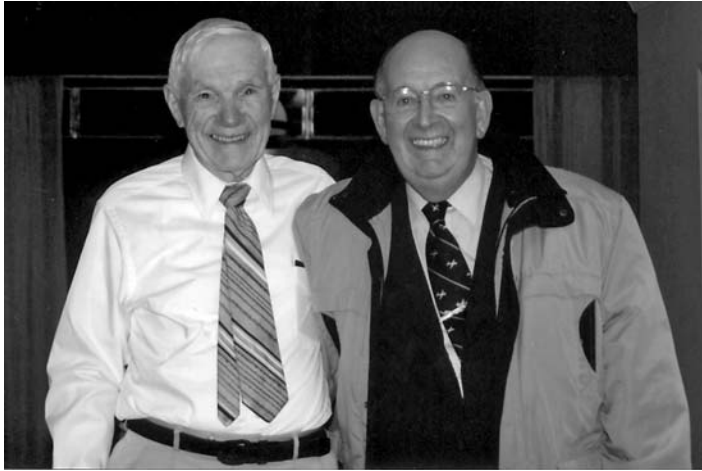


Come to Chicago and see one of the world's only two remaining Stukas!

Junkers 87B R-2/Trop, A5+HL, of 1/St.G 2., *in situ*, shortly after its capture in December, 1941. Hoisted by its own petard, this "Stuka" was damaged during an attack on British troops near the German airfield at Gamba, Libya. The British Army overran that base so quickly, while the plane was being repaired, that the plane could not be destroyed. Subsequently the Stuka was shipped to Chicago where it now hangs suspended from the ceiling vault at the Museum of Science and Industry. (Photo from the Imperial War Museum, published in *Fighters over the Desert* by Christopher Shores and Hans Ring, Arco, 1969)

"Hastings Farewell" The End of an Era

David Hastings



Old friends and colleagues, Earl Zimmerman and David Hastings depart the meeting following David's retirement. Photo courtesy of Carol Holliday.

At his retirement from the Board of Governors, David Hastings made the following speech, showing the sweep of the entire history of the memorial library.

Mr. Chairman and fellow Governors, thank you for your kind words and the very great honour of being made an Honorary Life Governor, which I will cherish for the rest of my life. As the last Governor left who had the privilege of knowing the 2nd Air Division USAAF in the war and as this is my last meeting, I hope you will allow me a few minutes to share with you just some of the memories of the last twenty-eight very exciting and challenging years in the history of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library.

Obviously my friendship began in 1943, when my mother's work as the Deputy Commandant of the British Red Cross in Norwich, meant our home in Norwich was "Open House" to the 2nd Air Division. We made many friends, only to lose them within a few weeks as the carnage of your losses in those early days was terrible. Even later on, when I was adopted by Lt. Al Dexter and his crew of the 389th at Hethel, death was never far away and I lost a very great young friend who was killed on a mission. Then my Crew Chief, Pop Gantus, who volunteered for aircrew after the Al Dexter Crew had completed their missions, was shot down and killed just a few months before the war ended. I am so glad to have Earl Zimmerman, my old friend from the 389th, here today. Earl, you and the 389th really spoilt us at Hethel and we can never thank you enough.

So my generation knew that we had a huge debt to repay, which is why in 1980 when Tom Eaton invited me to his office to ask if I was willing to become a Governor that I jumped at the chance to serve your Memorial and start to repay some of the debt. Although I have to admit now that my generation of Trust Governors have really gained more than we have put back thanks to all your friendship.

I was lucky enough to join the Trust when many of the original Governors were still there. To be trained by such people as Lady Mayhew, Anne Barne, Tom Eaton, Alfred Jenner, Tom

Cheyne, Bill Wuest and Roger Freeman was wonderful, and I will never forget Lady Mayhew's words of guidance when she repeatedly said, 'Remember this is their Memorial, not ours, we are only the custodians.'

The Memorial Library was very different in those days. Known as the American Room, it was situated in the corridor leading from the main library to the reference library. The library was run by the Norwich City Council. We had no staff, just the Roll of Honour, one line of bookshelves, very little money, and we met in the Chief Librarian's office. Just before I became a Governor the Trust had almost exhausted the original funds donated in 1945, and Tom Eaton had made his memorable visit to his first 2nd Air Division Association Convention to spell out the situation. The Association responded immediately and every year since, making you the single largest donor to the Memorial and we can never thank you enough. There is no doubt in my mind that without Tom's wisdom and leadership we would not have the Memorial Library that we all enjoy today. I was indeed privileged to serve as his Vice-Chairman for ten years, followed by being Vice-Chairman for Paul King for four years.

We decided that the Memorial must change its image. Roger Freeman redesigned the brochure, we produced our first leaflet and also made our first film "Remember Them" which we took around the villages, schools, and clubs. This was such a success that, thanks to Lt. Col James Mahoney of the 467th BG who had taken colour film all during the war, we made a second one, "A Village Remembers," using his voice for the commentary with Jordan Uttal speaking the closing words. This proved another success, and a London film company converted both films to videos and we sold thousands of them before, sadly, the masters were destroyed in the fire.

Another great memory was the evening when Anne Barne called a meeting to form the Friends of the Memorial. We were staggered to see the lecture theatre at the old library filled to capacity. How blessed we have been with The Friends at the Norwich Conventions when they acted as coach couriers, arranged all the Base Day programmes, strengthened the links with the old bases, and provided so much support to the Trust. The vision of Anne Barne was taken to the USA, and the Heritage League was formed.

Then that amazing morning in a packed Music Room at the Assembly House, when Anne Collins, the Cultural Attaché from the US Embassy in London, announced that we had been awarded a Fulbright Scholar, the only library in Europe to receive such an accolade. The Association then raised funds to carry this on in perpetuity. Tom Eaton asked me to act as liaison officer to the Fulbright Commission, and I enjoyed fourteen wonderful years of happy meetings mainly in London but occasionally in Norwich. One special meeting was when the US Ambassador invited us to his private residence at

Exhibitors and Documentarians



Besides jackets, equipment, and other memorabilia, the Sons of Liberty also have a number of authentic patches. Among those pictured here are those of the 389th, 467th, and 466th BG's, framed with histories of those units.

At reunions and conventions, there is quite a lot of time—time for visiting hospitality rooms and time for the many wonderful conversations that take place, maybe even time for a rest, though that appears to happen seldom! Another aspect, however, is exhibitors, folks who take the time to set up (and take down) displays that add to the attendees' enjoyment. This year in Dallas, we were blessed to have two such exhibitors—Dr. Vern Williams and the fellows from the Sons of Liberty Militaria Exhibits.

But the contributors didn't stop there: There were two students and their tutors from the Norwich University College of the Arts, as well as a visit from Alex Mena, documentary film maker.

East Anglia Air War Project

Dr. Vern Williams, Professor of History at Abilene Christian University, actually wore three hats this year: exhibitor, keynote speaker, and documentarian. For some years, he has been working on the East Anglia Air War Project, documenting the experiences of Eighth Air Force personnel AND the civilians who knew and hosted them.

Dr. Williams spoke at the first evening banquet, and gave us a showing of his film *Liberators Over East Anglia: The Second Air Division and the Air War in WWII Europe*. Parts of this film made extensive use of footage from *Target for Today* (digitally

remastered by Old Segundo Studios), with the balance composed of interviews with Eighth Air Force airmen and civilians who were British schoolchildren at the time.

Dr. Williams and his students also exhibited very nicely done easel-mounted, large-scale placards, two for each group, giving the broad history of the bomb and fighter groups of the Second Air Division. You can imagine how much work this was to transport, put up, and take down, and we greatly appreciate it.

For more information, visit the Project's website at: <https://webfiles.acu.edu/users/vwilliams/web/anglia/pubs.htm>.

Sons of Liberty Militaria Exhibits

David Contreras and Robert Coalter brought some pieces from their large collection of military memorabilia for another afternoon's and evening's entertainment. These young fellows were knowledgeable, friendly hosts for their exhibit, and they spent a great deal of time talking with anyone who stopped by. See the accompanying photos for examples of their work. They have two websites that can provide additional information: <http://www.sonsoflibertymilitariaexhibits.com> and <http://www.armyaircorpsmuseum.org>. We will look forward to watching the development of their on-line presence.

Norwich University College of the Arts

A grand surprise, two students and their tutors from the Norwich University College of the Arts were on hand to videotape interviews with our vets. Elliott Mulhall, student of animation, and Rory McVicar, film and video, spent countless hours in interviews under the capable guidance of Tutors Liam Wells (Animation) and Suzie Hanna (Film). They showed good humor, moving from location to location as conflicting activities dictated—from lobby to lobby to meeting room to CORNER of the banquet hall! Their interviews will be archived at the Memorial Library, and Rory and Elliott will do shorter creative documentaries on DVD for use in outreach to primary and secondary schools.

Elliott says, “My plan is to make a 2D style animation but presented in 3D—as in you have to wear glasses. The project is still in the development stages, and I’m working out a way to display the 3D film. The inspiration came from the veterans

Elliott Mulhall videotapes Ray Lemmons of the 445th BG. Elliott and his colleague, Rory McVicar, spent the convention chronicling the stories of our 2ADA vets. They were of necessity flexible, using empty conference halls, corners of dining rooms, and, as in this photo, even an out-of-the-way spot in an upstairs lobby.



story telling style; they often describe distance and measurement of events in their stories in great detail, something I imagine they picked up in their training and has stayed with them. I then thought the best way to present this was to be in 3D so the audience gets to see things the way the crews did.”

You can also check out some of the animated work on the BBC.co.uk, searching for a series called “Dawn Chorus.” Rory also has a nice ballad duet on YouTube at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SnURYDk_Ixw and also shows off some nice solo work at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EvrCkMTfh_uo&feature=related.

Alex Mena and Crew 713

We first met Alex at the 2008 492nd BG reunion in Bloomington. His father, Nemesio Mena, was radio operator of the 492nd's O'Sullivan crew, flying “Irishman’s Shanty.” Crew 713 became the first in the 492nd to finish 30 missions—only seven days before the group stood down and was disbanded due to high losses.



Alex is working on the documentary “Crew 713—Ten Guys Trying to Survive 30 Missions.” He was in Bloomington doing interviews with veterans and visited us in Dallas to continue to meet the guys from other groups who did the same thing as his father and crewmates.

Alex has recently finished the trailer for his documentary. With an introduction by Kinky Friedman, whose father was a navigator on an 8th AF B-24, the trailer provides a moving overview of what promises to be a powerful and professional film.

You can learn more about Alex’s film and follows its progress at <http://crew713.com/>. His blog at the same site provides regular updates, including his success at locating family members of Crew 712. More of Crew 713’s story appears on the 492nd BG website at <http://www.492ndbombgroup.com/>. (Click on “Combat Crews, by name” and scroll down to O’Sullivan.)



Front row: Thomas Chaffee, Navigator; Charles Crowley, Bombardier; David G. O’Sullivan, Pilot, and Peter Leri, Co-Pilot. Back row: Gildo Gregory, Engineer/Top Turret; Nemesio Mena, Radio Operator; Barney Edwards, Tail Gunner; John D. McCarthy, Left Waist Gunner; Edward E. Picard, Right Waist Gunner, & Emmitt H. Coomer, Nose Gunner. Photos from Alex Mena.

We want to thank these group and individuals for coming to the 2ADA convention. Their dedication to preserve history, as well as the efforts they undertook to provide additional interesting experiences in Dallas were most appreciated.

President's Message

Brian Mahoney

The change of administration in Washington, whatever your alignment, has brought with it a credible and very exciting possibility of a new bipartisanship and a national readiness to accept rational sacrifice for discussed and desired change in many areas, including governmental oversight of lending and markets, multilateralism in our foreign relations, and health care reform to name just a few.

In the League we are at a point where it is appropriate to embrace a change, one we have been looking toward since the beginning, but frankly have yet to “make real.” That is, as the veteran generation inevitably passes on and their organizations either fold or pass to the second and subsequent generations, we have to change our focus.

For over two decades, our very powerful “present purpose” has been to befriend and socialize with the veterans of the Second Air Division, and support them and their organizations in gathering and seeing to the appropriate long-term stewardship of their legacy. While we are not yet done helping with research and memoirs and finding the right repositories for treasured mementos, the time is in sight when there will be no vets left, and their associations will have either closed or been passed to involved descendants.

The “future purposes” in carrying out our mission could take many forms, but for the most part remain open and undefined. We are already comfortable with, and indeed ennobled by activities such as supporting the 2AD Memorial Library in England, laying wreaths in the overseas American cemeteries, and hosting reunions open to 2AD veterans and their descendants, friends, and interested researchers. But we all sense a need to latch on to more visible and practical ways to fulfill our mission of promoting “...educational, social, cultural and commemorative

activities which compellingly present this rich history to succeeding generations.”

Your Executive Committee is now updating the goals section of our mission statement and would like your ideas. We continue to solicit your involvement in envisioning and actualizing our mission, whether in a leading or supporting role. Our next member meeting will include elections, and I am hoping that we may finally elect a suitable person to the new office of VP for Volunteers, to lever our collective talent and energy into better ‘actualization’ of the Heritage League, perpetuating its mission into the future.

The Heritage League is efficient, non-profit, and all-volunteer, but will never be stronger than the help its leaders can inspire, direct, and harness. Please contact me or another of the officers—our latest contact info always runs on the back cover—if you have specific mission suggestions, volunteer interest, or are available to serve in office. (If you are reading this as a non-member through our website, and believe you would find helping with some aspect of our work interesting, again, feel free to contact any of our officers).

Correction: The last issue inadvertently cut off the last lines of the President's Message. The final paragraph reads: “More importantly, the shortened version we all know, posing questions that easily scale up from the War of 1812 to any era in a perpetually insecure world, have a power deriving from the open ended thinking they provoke...about the experimental, uniquely American nature of our still young republic.”

Annual General Meeting of the Board of Governors

Carol Holliday, Secretary, Heritage League



Governors in attendance at the annual meeting (L to R): Chris Williams, Michael Longe, David Douglas, David Gurney (Vice-Chairman), David Hastings (appointed Honorary Life Governor), Matthew Martin (Chairman), Fran Davies (appointed Honorary Life Governor), Chuck Walker (2ADA Representative on the Board), Peter Foster, and Andrew Hawker (Library Sub-Committee). Among those not pictured are: Richard Ashton, Director, American Air Museum; Prof. Christopher Bigsby, School of English and American Studies, UEA; Ben Du Brow (who was in Dallas); Joe Dzenowagis, Jr. (also a Dallas attendee); Lisa Davis, Cultural Attaché, US Embassy London. Photo: Carol Holliday

How does one sum up a trip worth a lifetime in one page? It is impossible, but here are highlights from the 2ADA Memorial Trust Governors Annual General Meeting in Norwich, England on November 10, 2008. I attended on behalf of Vicki Warning, HL Representative to the Board of Governors, who could not make the trip this past year.

Chairman Martin opened the meeting by welcoming all and introducing visitors from the USA. Attending visitors from the 2nd Air Division Association were President John and Betty Lee, Secretary Richard and Gwen Robert, Representative to the Trust Governors Chuck Walker, Past President Earl Zimmerman, and Joan Patterson, widow of long-time Secretary David Patterson. (Charlie Walker, Jr. traveled with his father but did not attend this particular meeting.)

The Big picture...

Trust Auditor Chris Dicker presented the accounting, ending 5 April 2008. There are 3 main funds: the Capital Fund at 71.4%, the Book Endowment Fund at 7.4% and the newest, the American Presence Fund (created by monies returned from the Fulbright Program) at 21.2% which totals £1,743,903 in the Trust. An endowment of £2,000 dedicated to the memory of Geoff Gregory, 467th BG, was donated by his wife, Terry.

With additional donations contributed by the Gregory family and friends, a new front desk for the library was purchased. (See photo. p. 23). Bernard Newmark gave another \$50,000, the 2ADA gave \$20,000 and the Heritage League gave \$1,000. The Trust also relies upon financial and other support from the Norfolk County Council. Donations keep this library alive and well and Matthew profusely thanked all donors to this living memorial to those special Americans who sacrificed their lives during WWII.

New University of East Anglia(UEA) Scholar program

Andrew Hawker introduced Meghan Purvis, a PhD. student with the University of East Anglia (UEA) from Fresno, CA. She is the first recipient of 2AD UEA Scholarship, the program which replaced the Fulbright Librarian Program. She started her 10 hours per week on September 1, 2008 by starting a book club with a focus on American fiction; she is also working with the Memorial's satellite libraries. Meghan's long term goals include continuing the regular school visits started by her predecessor Fulbright librarians, with emphasis on promoting the Memorial Library's excellent collection of WWII memorabilia, maps, videos and books. The library

plans to increase funding from the American Presence Fund in 2009 to create a second scholarship for another graduate UEA student. This will allow for 20 hours per week with two students, and most likely will award £6,000 to each.

Report of the Trust Librarian

Libby Morgan introduced American Sarah-Beth Nelson who is volunteering her time as a storyteller and librarian in local elementary schools. The Norwich University College of Art students who filmed our veterans (the Oral History Project with about 25 interviews), at the 61st Annual 2ADA Reunion will each create a short film for the Memorial Library archives and the Norfolk Records Office. Upgrading of the library's website, www.2ndair.org.uk should be completed by March. There are now four satellite libraries, located at Dereham, Sprowston, Long Stratton and Attleborough, each representing 3 or 4 of the USAAF WW II bases.

Libby was pleased to report an increase in visitors to the library to 161 per day in 2008. We are very lucky to have such fine library staff, doing a very professional job.

John Page, new Chairman of the Friends of the Second Air Division Memorial, reported that the late David Neale is very much missed. The Friends will continue to meet for special events and dinners, but outings will decrease as they have become prohibitively expensive. Colin Mann is Vice-Chairman. "Second Thoughts" will continue to be produced with the help of Editor Trevor Bond.

Honorary Life Governors

Mrs. Fran Davies, with 25 years of service and David

Hastings with 28, were appointed as Honorary Life Governors. Fran was instrumental with Mrs. Anne Barne (now deceased) in creating the Friends. Matthew asked Fran, how can we forget multitudes of your quiet acts, and the grand Mrs. Barne? You are both great ladies. David was instrumental in re-creating the Memorial Library after the devastating fire in 1994, and after much hand-wringing, later re-opening in 2001. Both will be missed as both dedicated the best of their time to the Memorial Library. I can't forget all those memories. David, as you so eloquently put it [to the veterans], 'This is your library.' But this is true, David, you've had a unique role steeped in this library's history. It would not be what it is today if you had not contributed so much."

Since the meeting we have learned that General Sir Richard Dannatt, GCB, KCB, CBE, MC, ADC, who is the Chief of the General Staff, and the professional head of the British Army, accepted Chairman Martin's invitation to speak at the next Memorial Library Biennial Lecture, set for November 11, 2009. These lectures focus on post-war Anglo-American affairs, and this next promises to be most fascinating.

I want to extend a hearty "thanks" to those who've helped me clarify the finer points of this article—Governors Matthew Martin, Andrew Hawker, David Gurney, and Trust Librarian Libby Morgan. To the League for delegating me and helping me to attend, to my mother Joan Patterson and our USAAF veterans, a huge thank you for a special trip I will always remember! (Thank you for representing us so well, Carol. -Ed.)

2nd Air Division Memorial Trust— Book Endowment Programme

*Compiled from information provided by
Libby Morgan, 2AD Trust Memorial Librarian*

I was really delighted to have been appointed as the new Trust Librarian, joining the staff team here at the Memorial Library in January, 2008.

Although I can claim no credit in choosing these particular titles, I have great pleasure in sending you details of the books purchased in your name for the Memorial Library during 2007/2008, and would like to thank you for your generous support of the book endowment programme.

Always looking for opportunities to promote the Memorial Library, on 6th March (World Book Day) I gave an interview on BBC Radio Norfolk promoting the library, and in particular the books we have about American life and culture (history/art/film/sports/cookery/biographies/politics, etc.), as many local people are not aware of the comprehensive range of American titles we have in our library stock.

Looking to the future, we have a busy work schedule planned for the year ahead. This includes looking at how

best to expand on the work we're already doing with children and young people, and exploring new ways of promoting the Memorial Library to the people of Norfolk, reaching out to people who do not know about the library and what we have to offer.

The books purchased for the 2007/2008 year are:

Gregory Pons, 8th Air Force, *American Heavy Bomber, Groups in England 1942-45*

Good Housekeeping, *A War Bride's Guide to the USA*

Armitage David, *The Declaration of Independence: A Global History*

Marc Fisher, *Something in the Air: Radio, Rock and the Revolution that Shaped a Generation*

Halesworth Happenings

Marjorie Shiers

Charlie Freudenthal's October Newsletter reported that the 489th Reunion in Texas was a great success and the veterans intend to hold another reunion next Autumn in Florida. One of the 489th veterans who attended the Texas reunion returned to Halesworth at the end of November. Horace 'Mickey' Baskin was a Radio Operator on the Boyd Morse Crew. He flew on the Group's first combat mission on May 30th 1944. His 32nd (and final) mission was flown on September 11th 1944. On his arrival in Halesworth this time, Mickey wanted to go straight to the Airfield Memorial site where he said a prayer for his fallen comrades. Although the airfield is now privately owned as a turkey farm, a local Friend had sought permission from the farm manager of Bernard Matthews plc to take Mickey along the airfield runway, where he remembered the difficulties taking off on such a short runway and he recognised the areas where the B24s were kept. He also visited the Airfield Museum, which brought back many memories for him. Mickey pointed out the place where his squadron billet was. He said they were located close to the combat mess and as a result his squadron could walk to the mess whereas other squadron crews were transported there by vehicle. Mickey has re-visited Halesworth on a number of occasions which is great for us all.



Mickey Baskin at the 489th Memorial on Holton Airfield

Mickey Baskin was the second 489th veteran to visit Halesworth this year.



Bob Carlton with his family at the 489th Museum.

In September, Robert Carlton returned for the first time since 1944 and, with his family, he met up with a friend he met all those years ago. Peggy Hurren was a young ambulance driver living in Southwold when she and Bob first met. Bob was on the Ed Wall crew who were shot down, captured and became prisoners of war. Bob and Peggy sadly lost contact and it was not until a few years ago at a 489th reunion in the USA that Bob met some 489th Friends from Halesworth. He asked them whether they knew Peggy and if she still lived in the area—they did, and she did! Bob and his family had a great week in Southwold and Halesworth with Peggy's family. The local Friends were honoured to meet him.

[Ed. Note: In March, the 489th's website went live. Still under development, this new site is coming along quickly, with, among other attractions, a very nice gallery, including nose art, 11 veterans' stories, and a very nice record of the Group's reunions. Visit them at <http://489th-bomb-group-museum.org>.]

The Further Adventures of Nash Ruddin

When we last left Mr. Ruddin, he was on board an airliner winging its way slowly to New York after losing three engines. We are happy to report that he made it. When he got to the airport, he had missed his connecting flight and was informed that it would be at least 18 hours before he could board another flight to his destination.

By now he was famished, and he began looking for a place to get some food. It was then he discovered that he had lost his billfold, containing all his cash and credit cards. All he had was his checkbook and a small carry-on bag with some personal care items.

But his worry turned to joy when he spotted a restaurant named "Cheers!" He went in, sat down, and informed his waiter he would be paying by check.

The waiter said, "Sir, I'm sorry, but we don't accept checks—only travel checks, credit or debit cards." After Mr. Ruddin described the horrifying flight, the loss of his billfold, and the long delay, the waiter said, "Sir, let me get my manager. Perhaps he can help you."

Mr. Ruddin again patiently explained his predicament, and the manager reiterated the restaurant policy. Mr. Ruddin said, "But I thought this was where everyone knows your name."

The manager replied, "Sir, that was a TV show. This is an airport. We don't know anybody." It was at that moment Mr. Ruddin's stomach growled loudly and longly. The manager, feeling some pity, said, "Sir, do you have ANYTHING by which you can identify yourself?"

After thinking for a moment, Mr. Ruddin opened his carry-on and with a flourish, pulled out a small mirror. He gazed at it for a moment and then announced triumphantly, "Yes. That is definitely me!"

Hastings Farewell, continued from pg. 5

Winfield House to thank the Trust and our Fulbright Scholars for all that they had achieved. You only have to read the book made by Fran Davies to realize just how good our eight Fulbright Scholars had been for Anglo/American relations and the Memorial Library.

By now the Norwich City Library had come under the control of the Norfolk County Council. Hilary Hammond arrived as the Director of Libraries, visited the Memorial and asked to attend a Governors meeting where we were overjoyed to hear him to declare that 'The Memorial Library was the jewel in the crown of the County Libraries.' He became a huge supporter and eventually a Governor, and indeed we owe him so much. We slightly extended the Library, Roger Freeman gave us the huge B.24 mural, we added the tail fins and Group boxes, Geoff Gregory gave us the Freedom Shrine, Jordan Uttal gave us a slide projector in memory of Joyce, and we now had our own small staff.

Then how can we ever forget all those 2nd Air Division Association Conventions. Jean and I have been lucky enough to attend twenty-six of them with that great family. In those early days, Evelyn Cohen had a huge task with up to 1800 delegates attending, and we met such famous people as Jimmy Stewart, Andy Low and Moose Allen. Also, how can we ever forget all those wonderful 2nd Air Division families who had us back to their homes after the conventions and gave us so many great tours of the USA. So good to have Joan Patterson here today, as we have enjoyed so much fun and laughter with her and David on holidays both in the USA and Europe. Of course as a pilot, how can I ever forget those 29,000 miles of flying with David Patterson in his great Cessna C-337 to almost every part of the United States, a real British pilot's dream.

Next we had the Norwich Conventions. For Jean and I and our small company, to work for Evelyn Cohen was such great fun. Evelyn demanded 110%, but it was a great challenge and a chance to try out some new ideas.

How can we ever forget those private 2nd Air Division Association trains from London with the 2nd ADA headboard on the locomotive and the Anglian Big Band playing Glenn Miller music on the platform when you arrived. The Norwich composer of your moving 2nd Air Division Fanfare and his request that we should include the recorded sound of B.24's taking off echoing around the nave of our Cathedral, something we never thought the Dean would allow, but he did. The services became a high spot of the Conventions. We must never forget the huge support we received from RAF Coltishall, RAF Neatishead and the USAF at Mildenhall. What about the year when RAF Coltishall gave you a whole day with a private airshow including the Red Arrows—something we discovered later cost over £800,000. What a gift to the 2nd ADA.

What about the Banquet at the Norwood Rooms, when we got the famous Ray Shields Orchestra down from London to play in their USAAF uniforms, and Jimmy Stewart got up to conduct the orchestra when they played the Glenn Miller Story—his wife Gloria never forgave me! That night Mike

Benarcik, a B.24 pilot, also presented the famous painting "Welcome Home Yank" to the Royal Air Force, the WAC's wore their wartime uniforms, and Jordan Uttal told a very risqué story in front of our Lord Bishop—what memories!

Then on your next visit when nearly 800 attended, we had to take every hotel room in Norwich plus some outside and we also had to build a huge tent on the Norfolk Showground for the Banquet. As always, we produced a daily news sheet, and the job of getting a copy under each bedroom door at all the hotels was quite exciting. Luckily, the next time you came back we had just opened our superb new Sport Village in Broadland, we easily sat down over 1,200 for the Banquet, and I was reunited at last with my old wartime B-24 pilot Al Dexter. We also played a joke on the President Frank Dimola. When he and Elizabeth were collected from the Hotel Nelson by a Rolls-Royce for the reception at County Hall, he arrived and found to his horror a huge RAF Guard of Honour awaiting his inspection.

How can we ever forget those nights at Broad House, Wroxham, when Edward and June Trafford always invited a coach load of the 2nd ADA to supper. One year Jimmy Stewart and Andy Low played and sang squadron songs, and another year we even got Evelyn and Geoff Gregory to sing, much to the amusement of Colonel Al Shower. Edward was the first person to donate funds for the rebuilding after the terrible fire—what a family.

Then in 1992, when the Trust was asked by the Tourist Board to help with "The Friendly Invasion year, Tom Eaton told me to 'find a B-24 and bring it to Great Britain.' If you had said in 1943 that I would become a pilot, fly a B-24 across the Atlantic, and fly again with my old wartime pilot I would have laughed at you, but it all happened that year. The visit of "Diamond Lil" was a huge success. To see over 20,000 people waiting to greet us at Norwich Airport on our arrival was amazing, as were all the low level flights over the 14 bases, Headquarters and the Morley Hospital (now Wymondham College), which we had to repeat, flying as many youngsters as we could.

Next was that awful memory of 1994, when Tom Eaton phoned me very early in the morning, telling me to get up to the library quickly, and Tom, Hilary and I just stood watching in horror as our library burned to the ground. Two days later we were allowed into the stack tower to see what was left of our office. Then we spent several days packing up our archives, which had been saved in the basement but needed to be freeze dried. I think it showed the strength of the Trust that we had a temporary office open within three days at Noverre House thanks to Paul King, and then re-opened a temporary Memorial Library in Glasswells early the next year.

In 1995, we had the 50th Anniversary of the VE Day Parade, in which we tried to recreate the original 1945 Parade. Thanks to the 2nd Air Division Association, Norwich had the finest VE Day Parade outside London with 405 of you on parade. Evelyn told me to have the coaches ready at the bottom of Guildhall Hill as you would never march all the way to the Cathedral, but you did, being cheered all the way. We had to end it all on

a high note, so we hired our Theatre Royal, and Bob Brister and his amateur cast put on a tremendous 1940's show. We showed a huge picture of Evelyn on the stage screen, and we all ended singing our hearts out with "We'll Meet Again."

We then started the huge task of working with the 2nd Air Division Association and our top London design firm of Event Limited to design and build your dream of your new Memorial Library. John Whitehouse designed the superb Appeal Brochure, but sadly, he was killed in a horse riding accident, a terrible blow, for as a young pilot and businessman he had been earmarked as a future Chairman of the Trust. Another memory was the happy days working with Roger Freeman at his home in Dedham to produce the new Trust Brochure.

So finally to 2001 with the opening of your magnificent new Memorial Library, the only one of its kind in the world and the last Norwich Convention we would organize with Evelyn Cohen. The 12 months of planning had been completed, the print and design work finished, and then came the awful events of 9/11. Evelyn phoned to say you would still be coming, and then something happened which I doubt many of you know about.

Two days after Evelyn's call I received a telephone call from a Special Branch Officer in London to say that I was to meet him at the Norwich Police Station the next day at 10:00 a.m.—no arguing just be there. He was a steely blue-eyed and crew-cut officer who explained you were the first large group of US citizens to visit Europe since 9/11, and the US Embassy were very worried. So he and his team would look after you from your arrival at Heathrow and Gatwick until they put you back on your planes to return home.

He asked to see the programme and made changes. He then looked at the Fly-Past we had arranged and removed all the civilian aircraft. He even closed the airspace over Norwich during the Opening ceremony which did not please Norwich Airport, but he was right. Two days later he was back with some of his team and asked to walk the route our coaches would take from the Cathedral to the Forum; the route was changed. He also said no members of the public would be allowed in the Cathedral, but the Dean and I pleaded with him as this was the only occasion when we could all be together. In the end he relented, but only if local people entered by the left door and were screened, with the 2nd ADA using the right door. Not many people noticed the armed plainclothes policemen on all our coaches, nor the police marksmen on the top of the City Hall and St. Peter Mancroft. How amazed we were at the Opening Ceremony to learn that the father of General Hess, who jointly opened the new Memorial with our Lord Lieutenant Sir Timothy Colman, flew B-24's from Hethel with the 389th, was shot down and became a POW. What a joy it was to hear the youngsters from Wymondham College play the 2nd ADA Fanfare that morning as their tribute to you.

How can we ever forget that night in St. Andrews Hall when you received the Freedom of our City, a project we started in 1995 and so well deserved. Luckily for us, the Dzenowagis family have preserved all these memories on film, a priceless gift to your Memorial, so that future generations will be able to

relive all these occasions and understand the price of freedom they enjoy today. Also that last evening with Evelyn, after the Convention was over and we paid all the bills and sorted out the paperwork, when she had us all watery-eyed as she reminded Jean and I that this was the last of the Norwich Conventions.

Finally, the opening of the Forum by Her Majesty The Queen and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, in 2002. As Chairman I had the privilege of introducing Prince Philip to the Senior Governors, the 2nd ADA President, and our small Library team, before showing him around. He was deeply impressed, especially by the bookplates which made it in his words, 'a truly living Memorial.' The bureaucrats said that we were not to ask him to sign our Visitors Book, nor was I to give him a Medallion, but I decided to do both as it had to be done. I had a severe telling off afterwards, but it was worth it. Then the happy memories of working with the USAF of today at Mildenhall and the students at Wymondham College to strengthen the links to your beautiful Memorial Library.

So TWENTY EIGHT YEARS of trying to repay just a little of the debt we owe to the 2nd Air Division USAAF, but not really succeeding, and working with a great team of Governors and Library staff who worked so hard to meet all the challenges, but it was great fun. Memories and friendships that Jean and I will remember for the rest of our lives and all down to meeting you in 1943.

THANK YOU.

League Convention Photos

continued from pg. 2

The wonders of technology. With Marybeth's laptop outfitted with Skype and a camera, Marybeth, Irene Hurner, and Andrew Hawker, are able to speak with our friend and colleague, Ed Zobac via wireless internet. This technology already allows the League Executive Committee to meet quarterly, and may allow us in the future to participate in trans-Atlantic presentations.





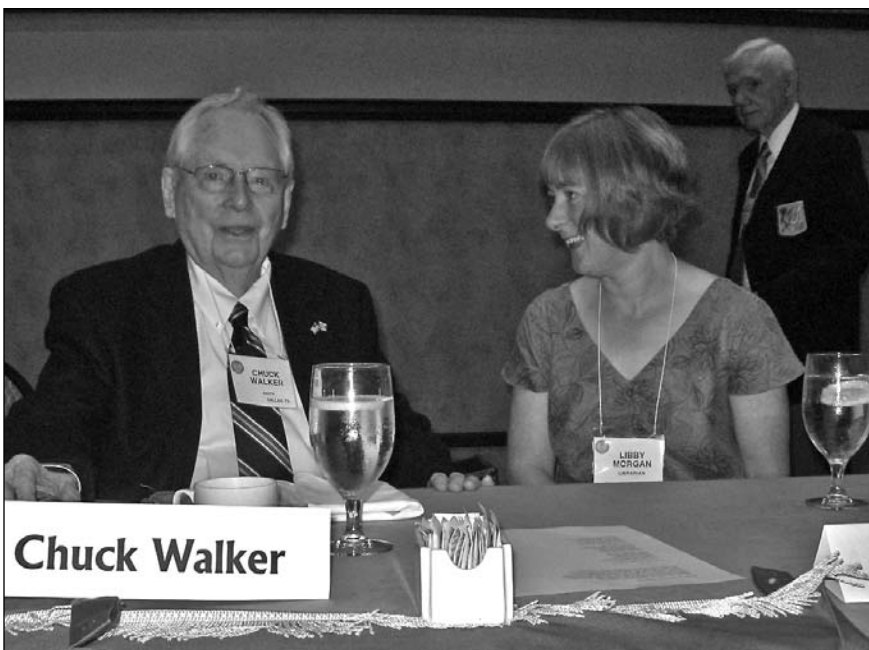
(L-R) Fielder Newton, Jim McClain, and Kelsey McMillan at the 389th table, Sunday evening banquet. Kelsey is the group's historian, and also edits their newsletter. Her new website for the 389th is featured in this issue of the Herald.



Heritage League President, Brian Mahoney, spends part of a relaxing Sunday afternoon chatting with Norma Beasley of the 492nd BG in Denver. A balcony outside the Gaylord's coffee shop, in front of the faux Alamo, provided a welcome gathering spot for attendees to meet and chat.



Frank Birmingham, father of HL Membership VP Marybeth Dyer, sharing stories with Marybeth's son, Aaron Fischer—or "Big A" as he's known to his grandfather. Aaron and his wife, Gaby, made a surprise trip to Dallas to see Frank and experience the stories. Great to see Third Gen's in the group. (Photo by Marybeth Dyer)



Chuck Walker and Trust Librarian Libby Morgan share at laugh at the head table on Sunday evening. Libby's husband Stephen led the invocation.



(L-R) David Borland (389th), and Fielder Newton (389th) spend some time at the Heritage League table. Just visible on the right is Allen Hallett, also of the 389th.



Pete O'Tube, Expert

Dear Readers,

This month, I would like to do something a little different. In the last issue of the Herald, I answered a question about something called a formation stick. We'll do a little follow-up here, with some interesting information about how the formation stick was tested at the 445th BG.

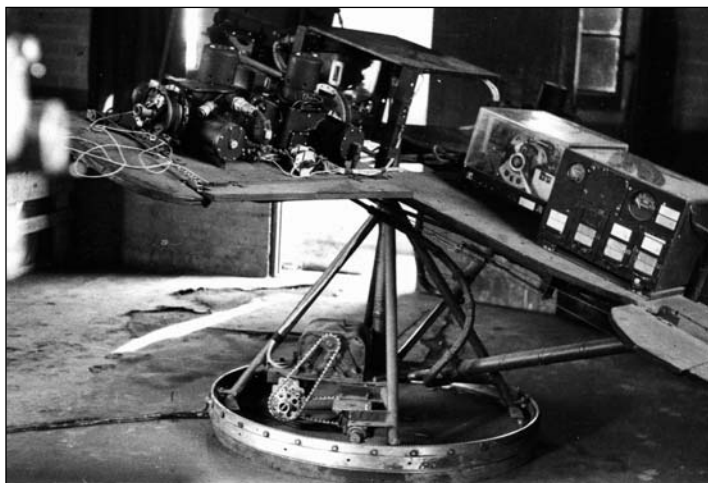
Part 2 of this column will demonstrate the quality of the information one can find on ArmyAirForces.com. As noted in the websites feature in this issue, the Heritage League's site features live links to the various forums there. (A future issue will detail the many resources available there.)

The basic material and photos for both parts of this column were provided by Linda Alice Dewey of the Kassel Mission Historical Society, from photos and a diary of Captain Wayne Allen of the 702nd BS. Linda has been busy scanning and captioning dozens of photos. A big thanks goes out to Linda for her assistance.

Sincerely, Pete

Formation Stick Redux

Captain Wayne Allen, 445th BG, 702nd BS, built a training set-up for the formation stick and C-1 autopilot in the 702nd's



Part of Wayne Allen's rig for training on the C-1 and formation stick. Compare the sticks on left and right side of the table with the illustration of the formation stick in Herald #41. Armrest is clearly visible on right stick. In the center of the photo appears to be mock-up of vertical stabilizers. The rest of the C-1 table is visible in the background of this photo.

shops. It apparently was not an easy task, as these excerpts from his diary show. Of note is how projects were followed to completion—and some semblance of normal life maintained—amidst the missions and sometimes disconcerting news from home:

MARCH 29 (1944), WEDNESDAY Scrubbed. Slept late. Started C-1 autopilot mock up. Received 3 letters from home, 2 from Helen and 1 from Blaine. Saw P-38 crash and explode.

MARCH 30, THURSDAY Mission scrubbed. Got top {?} mock up of Plywood for C-1.

APRIL 5, WEDNESDAY Stand down. Took command car to Watton and got parts for mock-up. Stopped at Hethel and looked at C-1 mock and A-5.

APRIL 7, FRIDAY (Good Friday) Stand down - bad weather. Worked on C-1 mock up. Discussed organization of B.S. Dept. Asked for job in Armament. Col says maybe.

APRIL 8, SATURDAY Big mission today. 36 planes from our group raided Brunswick with at least 300 others. No losses in our group. Enemy fighters and ours had a hell of a battle. Lots of planes blown on both sides. Lots of the bombers down. Worked on mock-up - watched take off.

Wayne Allen's C-1 autopilot set up for training bombardiers. Note chain-driven gearing at bottom of table's stand, to vary pitch and roll, and perhaps even yaw. The flight crews were certainly the "tip of the spear," but everyone had an important role. The two rigs in these photos represent the incredible ingenuity, creativity and initiative in evidence in the shops of all the groups.

Dance in club in evening. Everyone got drunk. Col. Terrill and Maj Stewart, Col. Frazier all there.

APRIL 14, FRIDAY Stand down. Worked on mock-up and ground checked airplanes. Getting planes in shape for raid tomorrow. Armament put a new tail turret in 571 in 8 hr. Frag bomb from plane above fell on tail turret but didn't go off. Didn't hurt gunner, but smashed turret all up.

APRIL 17, MONDAY No mission - rain. Took command car, Buist and Levine and went to Watton, Shipton P.X. and old Buckingham on business. When got back Marsh took me to 17 base and we saw C-1 auto-pilot in link trainer.

APRIL 24, MONDAY 24 planes raided Augsburg, 1 lost. Worked on C-1 mock up. Played volley ball {sic} in evening. Received letter from Helen and Blaine dangerously ill, heart attack. I'm worried too.

APRIL 25, TUESDAY (crash alert last night) 24 planes raided a town in Germany, no losses. 500# bombs. C-1 pilot mockup running. Letter from Helen - Blaine is better. Wrote letters in evening. Mail censorship is quite a job.

APRIL 29, SATURDAY 12 planes raided Berlin. No losses. Worked on C-1 mock up in AM. Went on 3 hr practice mission with Lt. Rodenbaugh pilot, Lt. Ofter bombardier on 619. Calibrated A-5 and checked equip. Did camera bombing. I lowbuzzed North Pickenham so that men ran for cover (4 homes) on ground. Dropped bombs in channel. Baseball in evening. We won 7-4. I caught. England is very beautiful from the air. Towns look like fairy land, with

the peaked roofs and mostly brick structures.

MAY 1, MONDAY I worked on C-1 mock ups. 18 planes raid rocket gun emplacements in AM, 12 raid North France in PM. 3 planes badly shot up in AM. No losses. We played baseball in PM and won 8-7.

MAY 2, TUESDAY Chem. Warfare lecture in AM 2 hrs. Worked on C-1 mock up. In PM found short on B.S. in 073 and fixed malfunction. Had replaced 4 intervolometers.

MAY 4, THURSDAY Mission recalled. 2 hrs Chem Warfare. Worked on C-1 mockups rest of day. Show "Higher and Higher" - Frank Sonatra {sic} on post.

MAY 5, FRIDAY Stand down - rain. 2 hrs. Chem Warfare. Worked on C-1 auto pilot mock up. Saw show "Mystery of Morgan's Creek" on post. Harding and Spahn made Maj. Jones, Groves Capt.

MAY 8, MONDAY Finished C-1 mock up. Worked all day. Lectured 1 hour to bombardiers on C-1 pilot. Looks like we are going to India for sure.

Alexander the Great's Horse

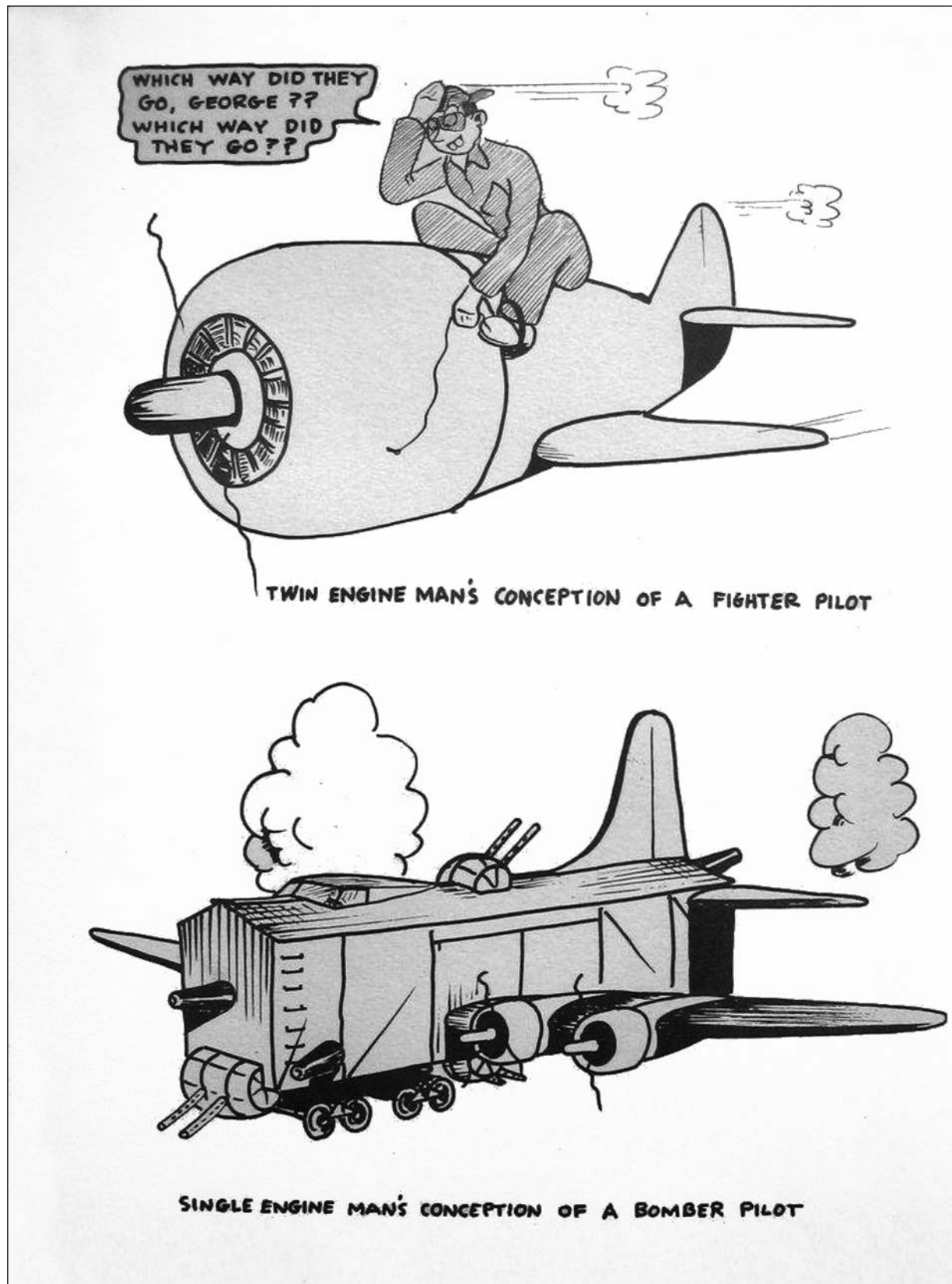
Among the photos in Captain Allen's albums was the P-47 pictured below, visiting Tiben-

ham on June 5, 1944. A close-up of the cockpit area showed 37 hash marks for various missions, all ground attack! In a white rectangle under the windscreen, the pilot was listed as Lt. K.C. Geyer. The nose art—superimposed over the cowling—was a long, odd word, and what APPEARED



The day before D-Day, 9th AF P-47 stops by Tibenham. Those pictured, left to right, are Ralph Crandall, Lt. Ehart, known as "E" and his friend, most likely Kent C. Geyer. White rectangle under windscreen contains pilot and ground crew members' names. Just ahead of that plate are the mission hash marks. Note bomb racks and lack of D-Day stripes. At some point during the day, we're told, bases were closed so the now-familiar black and white stripes could be applied.

to be a unicorn's head. Inquiring minds wanted to know: What is



One of many cartoons (including one from Milton Caniff) in "The Echelon," class book of Pilot Class 44G, Perrin Field, Sherman, Texas. Courtesy of Mike Voisin, curator/webmaster of the Army Air Forces Collection, <http://aafcollection.info/>. Visit the website so see the full yearbook and many other fascinating documents.

THIS?

This did not appear to be an 8th AF aircraft, and sure enough, a search of the database on "Little Friends" did not show a Lt. K. Geyer. A search through a home library did turn up a Captain Kent C. Geyer, flying missions in December, 1944, with the 9th AF's 379th FS, 362nd FG. Same guy?

There's only one place to find this out, the forums at ArmyAirForces.com. A short post on the 362nd s forum drew several immediate responses, indicative of the knowledge available from the forum members:

This was indeed Kent C. Geyer's plane, inherited from another member of the 379th after that pilot was KIA. The nose art was painted by another 379th pilot, George Rarey. The name of the plane was Bucephalus II, named after the horse of Alexander the Great! (Geyer's first plane was named "Stud"/"Battle of Swiss Villa" the latter commemorating a barroom brawl involving Geyer before the group shipped overseas.) The original pilot, Capt. Clough Gee, was a West Point graduate and the group's S-3. He was a physical fitness fanatic who slept nude even in the dead of English winter, bounding out of bed in the morning and doing 50 push-ups just to tick off his roommate who hated the cold. A later contributor noted that the plane's call letter was most likely "I" (as in B8*I), possibly P-47D-21-RE 42-25339. There was a great deal more, including information on the Luftwaffe unit that was involved in Gee's loss.

All this from two small pictures! In a matter of a few days!

So if you have a question about equipment, a plane, a person, or unit, you can always pitch it to Pete. But be sure to join and check out the forums at <http://www.armyairforces.com>.

Web Pages We Wike - by Siwwy Wabbl

File Edit View Go Bookmarks Tools H



► <http://www.heritageleague.org/>

Yes, our own site. Webmaster Bob Books gave us an overhaul, upgrading graphics and generally reorganizing the site. Marybeth Dyer, our Membership VP, has changed the on-line application/renewal form to reflect our new membership classifications. Many links have been added or updated, with an active link to all 2AD groups with websites, as well as a number of links to You Tube videos. (We now show up first in a search on Google and Yahoo. Alas, a simple search for "Heritage" brings up the Heritage Foundation. We'll overtake 'em yet.)

On the downside, we were forced to suspend our guestbook feature, but were able to substitute a question from that can be submitted to our responders. Thanks, Bob!

But wait! There's more! Those who are researching their veteran on the internet sometimes find us by first landing on the wonderful labor-of-love site by Scott Burris, <http://www.armyairforces.com/>. Scott is an old Navy man, but his grandfather was in the 361st BG (B-17 group in the 8th AF) in WW II. Your Communications VP and President are both longtime-fans and regular contributors there. Because of the good work the site does in supporting accurate historical work for all of the WW II Army Air Forces, plus pointing 2nd Air Division researchers to our website, we have made a \$500 contribution. We now favor our visitors posting their specific question to the 'Army Air forces forums' by following the new live links on our website under the 'Forums' tab.

► <http://www.389thbombgroup.com/>

This newer site is done by an artist and a researcher, and it shows. There is far too much on this site to cover in a brief review, and each section is presented in a graphically pleasing, exceptionally well-organized manner. For example, just click on "mission list" and choose a mission from calendars. There you will find not only the usual target information, but target coordinates, text explaining the significance of the target, a formation diagram, enemy resistance, diary excerpts, and... Well, you get the drift. This site also includes something not seen elsewhere: Detailed histories of many of the ground units. Despite the wealth of information there now, it's still under development.

bit

elp

p://WebpagesWeWike.htm/Siwwy_Wabbit

Future plans include a virtual tour of Hethel. Keep an eye on this site, setting a new standard of detail and ease of use.

► <http://www.airfields.fotopic.net/>

“Airfields and Aviation Memorials” by Richard E. Flagg. Outstanding site, as the title implies, of UK airfields and memorials. Richard has made it a mission to photograph the many, many memorials in Britain, and has come up with a winner. There are also fine pictures of many, if not all, of the old airfields. Fields and memorials are listed alphabetically by region, so the site is exceptionally easy to



navigate. Photos of each subject are labeled and vary from a handful to 100+. The airfield collections include a sidebar with detailed information about the original runways, as well as links to other pertinent sites. Innovations include the provision of Google Earth coordinates for memorials, as well as a “live” listing of most popular pictures by hits, as well as the opportunity to rank each picture you view. This site also has about the coolest method of listing links you’ll ever see. Updated with reliable regularity, “Airfields and Aviation Memorials” bears regular visits. Richard is always on the lookout for new memorials, so if you know of any that he has not listed, please contact him via the website.



Featured in this column are three photos from the site.

One is of a plaque commemorating the Headquarters of the Second Air Division at Ketteringham Hall.

Another is from Metfield, with a timeline of the 491sts time there, including the infamous explosion.

A third, represents those of the RAF, remembering a young New Zealander shot down during the Battle of Britain. Richard also has an equally impressive collection of aircraft photos at <http://richardflagg.fotopic.net/>.

He has also started a new forum on the airfields, the “Airfield Information Exchange” at <http://airfieldinformationexchange.freeforums.org/>. This group has already grown to over four hundred members.

Timeline

- 1938 September: 1st Air Division established
- 1939 February: 1st Air Division moved to RAF Mildenhall
- 1939 January: 1st Air Division moved to RAF Mildenhall
- 1939: 1st Air Division moved to RAF Mildenhall
- 1939 August: 1st Air Division moved to RAF Mildenhall
- 1940 March: 1st Air Division moved to RAF Mildenhall
- 1940 July: 1st Air Division moved to RAF Mildenhall
- 1940 August: 1st Air Division moved to RAF Mildenhall
- 1940 March: 1st Air Division moved to RAF Mildenhall
- 1940 May: 1st Air Division moved to RAF Mildenhall
- 1940: 1st Air Division moved to RAF Mildenhall
- 1940: 1st Air Division moved to RAF Mildenhall

Metfield Station 366

Bill's Buzz Boys

In March 1944, Major General 'Bill' Kepner, (CO for the USAF 8th Fighter Command) approved the formation of a squadron of 16 volunteer pilots.

The squadron was set up in order to experiment with the dangerous techniques of 'ground strafing' or low level ground attack by aircraft. They trained using Metfield as the target airfield.

The squadron was called the 353rd 'C' Fighter Group, but was soon nicknamed 'Billy Buzz Boys'.

Rocking the Countryside

In July 1944, a bomb detonated whilst being unloaded into the bomb dump. This caused a chain reaction. 1,200 tons of explosives exploded and rocked the countryside for miles. Five men were killed and five B-24 bombers were damaged beyond repair.

Top Secret

In August 1944, the European Division of Air Transport Command took over the airfield. It was used for the top secret 'Sonnet Project'.

The project used B-24 Liberator bombers to ferry personnel and materials to neutral Sweden, to rescue US aircraft which had taken refuge there.

REUNION SNAPSHOTS

Bill Berry— Stuck in St. Quentin



Bill Berry, and Betty, his wife of 65 years. This photo was taken following a lunch at the Gaylord's coffee shop—probably a better meal than Bill had in France in September, 1944 (except for the champagne!). We hope to feature some of Betty's stories of being a stateside wartime wife in an issue of the Herald this year.

Bill Berry, 389th pilot, flew one of Patton's gas runs to St. Quentin. "We got our B-24 stuck in a pothole and had no choice but to spend the night. I went into town to see what we could find for food. All I could get was four slices of tomato and four potatoes. I think it was the only meal you could get in France. But I was able to also come back with a nice bottle of champagne." No shortage of that apparently.

Jim McClain— I Can Laugh Now...

Jim McClain, originally navigator on the Robert Wright crew, 389th BG, 654th BS: "Less than a month out of the States—hell, I'd been visiting my family a month before—they sent us to Bengazi." From there, Jim flew Operation Tidal Wave, the famous low-level raid to Ploesti. (For an full account, see the 389th BG newsletter, Winter 2008.)

Jim eventually became Wing Navigator for the Second Bomb Wing. "I flew 25 missions, all in a greenhouse nose. I flew 2 missions with Ted Timberlake on board. On one, the second day of the St. Lo breakout, we ran into some trouble with visibility. The smoke to mark the line blew back. Timberlake was calling to Johnny Fino, the Wing Bombardier, 'Whatta ya' see, Johnny?' Nothing. So we circled back out over the water—now, keep in mind we were doing this at 12,000 feet. The third time around on the same route, the sky erupted with flak. NOW I can laugh about it!"

Lloyd Prang— A Labor of Love...



Lloyd Prang and his wife Irene. Breakfasts at the conventions provide a great setting for relaxed conversations and a chance to get to know the vets and their families a little better. Join us in Chicago and take advantage of these and other opportunities.

As you know from our last newsletter, the 453rd Bomb Group has made their original unit history, Any Low's The *Liberator Men of Old Buc*, available as a free download from their website (<http://www.453rd.com/>).

When the project was first proposed, Mr. Prang volunteered to type the entire book. He dutifully started in and, because it was such a massive project, wore out the first typewriter. "Then my son told me, 'You need to put this on the computer.'" At which point, he got a computer, learned to use it, and then typed the entire manuscript! "It was a labor of love," he says. Indeed—and now we all benefit.



Jim McClain, not in Dallas—but at the Eighth AFHS Iowa Chapter meeting. Jim stayed for a few extra hours and regaled several of us with stories of his Mediterranean adventures, including some time spent at the Royal Navy's Distressed Seaman's Camp, Number 12. (Also pictured are Charles Taylor (left) and Ernie Lay (right). Charles is a young, but very talented aviation artist whose 8th AF murals grace the Central Iowa Aviation Museum, and who illustrated his father's Turner-published book *Iowans of the Mighty Eighth*. Ernie brings a small portion—about 60 linear feet!—of his extensive collection of signed aviation art and photos every year (The League is represented at every Iowa Chapter meeting).

Cameron Murchison— “Through Every Moment of Every Day”



Cameron Murchison was a pilot with the 453rd BG and later, the 466th BG, where he took lead training. After the war, he stayed on flight status for 11 years, eventually flying 29 different aircrafts. He flew fighters, including the P-51, P-80, and F-84. In the summer of '49, his Air National Guard unit, the 125th Fighter Squadron was rated the best fighter outfit in the country, after scoring well on an operational readiness test.

“In '49, we were asked to augment the Air Defense

H. Cameron “Murch” Murchison, resplendent in white suit following Sunday night's banquet. Excuse the distance of the photo, but the photographer was a bit bleary-eyed. The time was about

10:45 p.m., and with photos and tales, Mr. Murchison had succeeded where all others had failed throughout the convention: keeping the author out of his room past 9:00.

Command, because the Russians had developed a long range bomber that could come over the poles. We volunteered to have four pilots fully suited, planes fully fueled, staying within 100 feet of our P-51's for 24 hours at a time. If we were called, we'd zip up there. Couldn't use the jets because they just didn't have the range, and with re-fueling we'd never be able to make an intercept.”

Mr. Murchison is justifiably proud of the time he spent in the ANG. He says, “Protecting your country is not just a statement, not a duty—it's a passion.” Today he spends a great deal of time as a docent at the Frontiers of Flight Museum, Love Field, Dallas.

Throughout his career, but especially during his time in Europe, he credits his safety to a prayer he said before every flight. It began:

*God rides beside me,
Guides the way
Through ever moment
Of every day.*

Joe Reus— Forger Par Excellence

Joe Reus became a POW in Stalag Luft I. He was actually shot down twice, the first time into the English Channel. In the prison camp, he served in the Maps and Documents Section of the Escape Committee. “The Germans gave us all these materials to keep us busy. And we did—forging various documents needed for escapees, as well as maps. We learned a lot from the British.”

Head of Joe's section was C. Ross Greenway, one of the Dolittle raiders. Mr. Greenway was quite an artist—hence, his leadership in the M & D Section—and after the war, in addition to becoming a career officer, he toured the country educating others on the POW experience. He put his experiences and artwork into a

Major Reus, proudly wears the insignia of the winged goldfish, recognizing his dunk in the Channel. One of the treats of attending these reunions is the chance to view rare patches and other memorabilia, and more importantly, to hear the stories behind them.



wonderful book: *Not as Briefed: From the Dolittle Raid to a German Stalag*. (Out of print for a number of years, *Not as Briefed* is again available.)

Charles Wheelwright—More Bounce to the Ounce

Charles Wheelwright was a tail-gunner on the Jim Vader crew in the 392nd BG. While in OTU near Tucson, they practiced low-level missions. “One day our pilot came back and said to me, “I want to sit in that thing.” So he got into the turret, and I went and sat on the command deck.

“You've got to remember. We were flying very low, and it was Arizona, so it was really hot. The plane was bouncing all around. Well, you got the roughest ride in the tail—you know what they say, ‘More bounce to the ounce.’ A bit later the pilot came out, and he was absolutely green! He said, ‘I've never been so sick in my life.’ Last time he asked me to switch.”



Another breakfast, another great conversation. Russell Woinowski (left) and Charles Wheelwright (right) both found gunnery training to be a blast (pun intended). Both thoroughly enjoyed skeet shooting and racing around a small track in the back of a pick-up, blasting away. As an added bonus, one of Charles' great friends he met while in the UK was also able to attend the convention.

Russell Woinowski— So I signed up...

Russell Woinowski was Group Bombardier for the 466th BG. He was with the Flying Deck throughout its entire time in England.

"When the war came, I already had pretty extensive military experience. So I asked about becoming a weather officer. They said they had all they needed, but did have an opening for a bombardier. I didn't know what that was, so I looked it up in the dictionary, and it said it was a just a guy with a cannon. So I signed up."

Russell was in class 41-3, one of the first in the new specialty. Besides serving as the 466th's Group Bombardier, he became a Wing Bombardier, and flew B-29 missions in Korea. As the functional lines between radio operator, navigator, and bombardier became blurred, Russell was appointed to a committee that came up with a new MOS combining all three positions—the famous "triple threat" men.

Russell has many great stories from his career, including a stint at Ft. Meyer, "where there was nothing but mosquitoes—it was the end of the world." Russell retired as in 1963 as a Lt. Colonel. Not bad for an aspiring artillery officer.

The Story of a Museum (and Their Many Acts): The 389th Memorial Exhibition Museum

(Text from a letter from Penny Daynes)

The Cast:

Fred Squires (Chairman)
Brian Skipper (founding member)
Kevin Waterfield (Electrician)
Steve Mendham (Buildings)
Albert Palmer (volunteer)
Cathy & Les Thomson (466th BG & volunteers)
Pat Ramm (453rd BG and volunteer)

Anne Howlett (Land owner/treasurer)
Penny Daynes (Secretary)
Billy Philby (volunteer)
David (Anne's farm worker & volunteer)
Gavin & Linda Shaw (new committee members)
Lionel & Miriam Hagger (volunteers)

The Acts:

I became involved with the museum around 9½ years ago when my partner Steve took me up there one day to have a look round. (He was already a volunteer himself.) I started going up helping clean up and doing any odd jobs that needed doing, and being interested in photography I took photos of the progress and open days we had. I then started getting more and more involved with raising money, then taking notes at meetings, until it finally progressed to me being on the committee as secretary. So I now do all the publication designing—brochures, posters, letters and anything else that involves making money for the museum—besides all the other bits like contacting people. I suppose you could say I am the next point of contact after Fred.

Steve, as I said earlier, is on the committee. He started off by coming to the museum (before it was actually open to the public) to do a roofing job and got bitten by the bug. He has been helping at the museum ever since (roughly 11 yrs.).



Another labor of love: Exterior of the Hethel Museum. Without the sustained efforts described by Penny in this story, there would not be much left here. Patio area provides a welcoming place to sit, chat, and have a cup of tea. Tractor on the right is evidence of the "working farm." Sign welcomes visitors to the "USAAF Station Hethel, 389th BG, Memorial and Chapel." American flag flies proudly above the memorial. Photo: Penny Daynes via Kelsey McMillan.



Ken Ellis of "Flypast" magazine admires the mural above the altar in the Hethel Chapel, originally painted by Charles "Bud" Doyle, 389th BG. Table is flanked by photos of FDR and Jimmy Stewart. Nose art plates of the 389th ships line the ceiling. Among those pictured are: Miss Liberty, Touch of Texas, Mistah Chick, Sweet Pea II, Heavy Duty, Hot Stuff, the Little Gramper, and Fightin' Sam. Photo: Penny Daynes via Kelsey McMillan.

Fred, well, he has been there since the birth of the museum. He and a chap named Jonathan Smith first started by asking Anne's late husband Tim if they could fix up the building as it was in such a sorry state and was being used for housing sheep. Tim agreed and said as they were doing the labouring for free he would supply all the materials. This arrangement worked very well. It took a huge amount of hours over many years of week-ends (as this is usually the only time we volunteers can come, as we mainly all work; plus as it is on a working farm, it is not practical to be there during the week).

Finally the building was cleared and cleaned, and the wonderful famous mural was discovered later and the Madonna's face was uncovered, providing the museum's main feature ever since. Bear in mind Fred used to come up to the base when he was only 10 yrs. old. He has many stories of the men and getting candy off them, etc., etc.

Later, around 6 years ago, we then opened to the public and have grown with each year. We have struck a very wonderful relationship with a lot of our veterans and their historian (Kelsey). She has been instrumental with a lot of informational details and other things. I would like it known she is a "silent angel." She should have much more recognition for all she does for us, but like me she likes to keep in the background.

I started up a newsletter "The Green Dragon Association" (about 3 yrs. ago). This has, like everything else, grown with popularity. [Ed.: See http://www.hethel389.co.uk/green_dragon_assoc.htm, for membership information and a link to the Green Dragon Pub bed and breakfast site.] I have started to get some really complimentary feed back. Each year I also design and make up calendars with photographs from our collections. These we sell to raise funds for the museum.

I started doing teas/coffees on open days, and this has progressed to a gift area where we sell various souvenirs. This has been a good fund-raiser too, but the other way we raise funds is we have a bric-a-brac table area and people donate money for these items. This is a winner.

Fred, Steve and myself have been going to all the open days we can at other Bomb Groups. We have a stall and sell items again to raise funds. This has been very successful, and again we have built a very good relationship with the groups, so much so we got about a dozen other museums and we get together and hold meetings. (Again, I do the secretarial side, being point of contact.) We try to organise our open days so they do not clash so each museum can gain as many visitors as possible, but if they clash it is usually two museums that are not too close. We are called The East Anglian Military Heritage Group. We are on the net [Ed.: see link on the Heritage League website] We have developed a group brochure, too, so people only need to pick up one brochure instead of 12. The aim of the group is to help one another, either with ideas or even lending out display items.

One event at the museum in 2009 is particularly near and dear to my heart: Steve and I will be getting married at the museum in July. Best regards, Penny

Volunteers and Contributors

Below, you will see a new addition to the Memorial Library, made possible by the generosity of Mrs. Terry Gregory, and the friends and other family of Geoff Gregory. This was a major contribution, the kind that moves organizations forward in dramatic ways. As you can see from the earlier stories, of similar importance are smaller contributors—volunteers at museums and airfields, craft makers for raising money a bit at a time, folks who give up an occasional evening for a business meeting, those who carefully maintain websites, those who add a little extra to a check they send, remembering and honoring a loved one.

Well, enjoy the rest of the issue. This next story is a great one. For it to appear here, it took the central character, the journalist, and the editor who gave us permission to re-print—three more people who volunteer or contribute in their own ways.



Low profile of new desk provides an updated look to our Memorial Library. Sign on desk reads in part: "Reading Across the Pond." [Photo by Libby Morgan via Carol Holiday]

Never-Ending Mission

Angi Kennedy

For Patricia Everson, remembrance isn't something that happens only in November, it is part of every single day. She tells Angi Kennedy how a whispered promise on a deserted Norfolk airbase helped shape her life.

The wind rattled the doors of the empty buildings, as Patricia Everson stood silently staring down the distance of the airstrip. Where the B-24 Liberators of the US Air Force once had thundered to their take-offs, now tufts of grass and weeds were insolently breaking a way through. Natural decay was slowly but surely reclaiming this deserted airbase at Seething, southeast of Norwich.

The village teenager had gone there in search of wild cowslips, but instead found herself pledging a promise that, many years later, would set her on a life-changing mission.

Patricia remembers that April day clearly. "Everything was so charged up with what had happened there. There and then, I swore that I would never forget the men who had been based there."

Life and the years rolled on. Soon there would be little clue to the airbase's story left to catch the eye of anyone passing through Seething. Only the older people of the communities around the former base would share the frisson of excitement whenever a trans-Atlantic accent was heard from the rare American visitor to the villages.

It was the early 1980s and moves were afoot to create a memorial in the village and at the airfield to the 400-plus men based at Seething who had lost their lives in the Second World War. Patricia Everson, by then in her mid-40's, offered her help, raising funds for the event at which some of the former airmen and their families would be present.

For her, this would be a chance to fulfill a secret longing that had been burning away at her since childhood.

Patricia was a five-year-old schoolgirl when war was declared. She was one of the generation who can even now summon up the smell of the claustrophobic gas mask and the dank, stale air of the shelter in the garden.

She grew up in days of rationing, of course; of cod liver oil and meal supplements for undernourished youngsters; of sanctioned days off when she and her fellow schoolchildren would pick soft fruit, rose hips to be made into syrup, acorns to feed the pigs and to collect aluminum foil and metal scrap to help the war effort.

Her father, Fred Knights, had joined up as a driver with the RAF, Patricia and her young brother Reggie, did their best to help their mother Jean, grow vegetables for their meals and collect water from the well.

Although she has no memory of hunger in those days of hardship, Patricia certainly recalls a sense of drabness. But that was to change in 1943. America had entered the war, and East Anglia was ideally placed to become its "airbase." Airstrips

were being carved into the landscape, accompanied by mess halls, billets, and control towers.

A mile outside the little village of Seething, the 58th Station Complement Squadron turned acre after acre of open field into a new airbase, ready for the arrival of the aircraft and flight crews of the 448th Bomb Group of the USAAF.

"I was nine years old when they came," Patricia said. "Suddenly we went from the 300 to 400 people in the village to having 3,000 young Americans down the road with these huge four-engine B-24 Liberator bombers.

"We had been at war for quite a few years by then and, to some extent, we were still living under that sort of Victorian thing of us children having been seen and not heard.

"But now the Americans treated us like equals and they really endeared themselves to us children, happy to spend a lot of time talking to us. They were so friendly to everyone...and they made quite an impression on the older girls too!

"They would cycle through the villages, and because all the road signs had been removed to confuse the enemy, they were forever asking where the nearest pub was and if we had got a big sister at home.

"You must remember, many of them were only young boys themselves. Their average age was 19—anyone in their mid-20's was called the old man of the crew!"

Many were astonished by the tough conditions that the English had been living in. "They wrote begging letters home, asking for things to give to the children," said Patricia. "They were extremely generous. When they heard that the Jenny Lind Children's Hospital was running short of supplies, they took things there, and they had a choir that would go singing round the wards.

"One of the Americans said he never realized how bad things had been there. He had an orange in his pocket and decided he would give it to the first child he came across. He gave it to this little boy who'd never seen one before and he bit into it—he didn't know you had to peel it first.

"Most of the children wanted chewing gum, they called them 'the gum chummers', but I loved the comic strips out of their newspapers the most."

The high point was the Thanksgiving and Christmas parties, though, when the children of the surrounding villages, home, and evacuees were invited to the base. "For the Thanksgiving party in 1943, they came down to the school in their trucks, and I can remember even now the excitement of being lifted over that tailboard.

"When we got there, it was the first time I had heard live music outside church, and the food was so different to ours—even the gravy was a different color.

"I wanted to ask a lot of questions because I didn't know much about America. But I was seated on a long table with all

the young Americans, and they were firing questions at me. Suddenly, I was too shy to ask anything and I just said yes and no and thank you."

The regret at this missed chance stayed with Patricia, and resurfaced all those years later in 1984 as the preparations took shape for the memorial service. This time, she told herself, she would have the courage to talk to the Americans about their lives.

"I was so looking forward to it," she said. "But two-and-a-half weeks before the service, my brother and mother were killed outright in a car crash at Kirstead."

For the tight-knit family, who had lived just doors apart at Seething, it was a terrible blow, and a shock for the community too, which had been so focused on the memorial that it was about to see put in place for the US airmen of four decades earlier.

"I went to the service, but I wasn't emotionally able to do what I wanted to," said Patricia. "After the Americans had gone home I really felt I had failed myself for a second time.

"So I managed to get the names of people in America who had sent contributions for the memorial. I wanted to write to them to ask them about their experiences.

"There was no-one more badly equipped than myself. I couldn't type or write letters, but here was drive inside me pushing me to carry on.

"First in my letters, I had to clear the air so that they knew I wasn't an illegitimate child or an ex-girlfriend trying to track them down. Sometimes I would send out 50 letters and not get back a reply.

"Some of the men just weren't ready to look back. But the first time I got a letter with some black and white photos of when that man was at the base and I thought 'yes, you can do this'."

And gradually the letters began to arrive through the post, some just a few notes or names, others pouring out remarkable wartime memories.

Today she has some 50 albums of their writings and hundreds of photographs, from official poses to relaxed off-duty shots of the Americans on and around the base.

Over the past 20 years, Patricia has gradually pieced together the jigsaw of names, numbers, memories, and missions to build a comprehensive picture of life at Seething airbase from November 1943 to June 1945, when the Americans left. And in the process she has brought about reunions of old crew mates, friends, colleagues and, of course, people from the villages around the base.

"I was able to reunite a whole crew of 10 and to put them in touch with the young boy from the village who they sort of adopted while they were here."

For her too there have been many revelations. Although she lived through the war, she saw it with child's eyes; it was not until many years later she was able to comprehend the true toll on the men who were based at Seething.

"As a child it was exciting. It is only when you are older that you realise how many people had died. There was one particular night when we lost two whole crews; 20 men, including one man who had been shot down just two days earlier and saved by the air sea rescue.

"How brave they had to be. They were so young and I am sure a lot of them never thought it would happen to them."

Since hearing from Patricia many of the old airmen have visited Seething to see the base once more and to pay their respects at the memorials to their fallen colleagues. And she has also gone over to America to take part in the large reunions there as the historian of the 448th Bomb Group collection.

Her husband, Ron, has also played an important part in the Seething airbase story. He was part of a small group that restored the base's near-derelict control tower which is now a "living memorial," home to the collection of memorabilia, donated uniforms and equipment from its wartime days, as well as being a focus for those making their pilgrimage to the airfield.

Opening the latest letter to arrive at Stanmere, her home on The Street at Seething, Patricia never knows what to expect, although more often these days they are the requests of grandchildren and great-grandchildren eager to discover information about their elderly or late relatives' wartime experiences.

"Some of the families say they didn't even know he was in the war," she said. "I think that quite a lot of the men buried it inside themselves when they returned home. Because so many of them were still quite young, a lot had to go back in to education and then get themselves a job so that they could start paying for their house and to get their children through their education.

"When they stand on the runway and think of their friends who didn't make it, yes it is very emotional," she said.

"I have worked hard to get as many records as I can, but I can't get the personal details unless the men tell me them. But they do talk to me because although I was a child then, I knew what it was like for them in some ways.

"Sometimes their families will stand there with their mouths open because they have never heard him tell these stories before. They say 'why didn't you ever say anything' and the men say 'you never asked.'"

"It's hard now because so many of them have become personal friends and we are losing them fast," she added, "But I feel I was able to share their golden years with them and put them in touch with each other when they hadn't been in contact since they finished their missions."

This article first appeared in the 10 October 2007 edition of the "EDP Sunday" supplement, and is re-printed here with the kind permission of Steve Snelling, editor at the Eastern Daily Press.

General William E. Kepner Award



Flanked by husband Kurt, and League President Brian Mahoney, Vicki Brooks Warning acknowledges the William E. Kepner Award. The reader may think that red-eye reduction was not attempted with this photo—but Vicki's eyes really WERE reddened by the honor.

During the Heritage League annual meeting in Dallas, Vicki Brooks Warning was given the Heritage League's highest award, named in honor of the Second Air Division's most respected commander, General Kepner. The text read of the certificate recognizing Vicki's contributions was as follows:

The members and the executive committee of The Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF) proudly bestow the SECOND General William E. Kepner Distinguished Life service award upon **Vicki Brooks Warning**.

When she accompanied her father, 466th Bomb Group navigator William L. Brooks, back to England in 1975, Vicki had a tremendous bonding with him and his generation, and understood their connection with comrades who had made

the fullest sacrifice in freedom's name, from wartime airfields across East Anglia thirty-some years earlier.

Her powerful personal experience turned poignant when her father died months later. In time, her growing historical awareness, her love of the veterans and their families met at Second Air Division Association gatherings, her natural leadership ability and her growing reverence for the services and sacrifices of Bill Brook's comrades, would turn into a legacy of her own substantial service.

When the young Heritage League called on her to serve as its first 'second generation' president, in 1988, she became emblematic of the talented and generous volunteers we have been so lucky to attract, all of whom have all taken inspiration from her loyalty, have matured as board colleagues by benefit of her clear counsel, and have grown in graciousness while savoring time in her company.

Vicki's 21 years of continuous service on the Executive Committee of Heritage League have been crowned since 2000 by the title "Representative to the Governors of the Second Air Division Memorial Trust." Scores of Governors, Friends of the Memorial, and conventioners in England and the United States join us in admiring her humor and uncommon good sense.

The commander of the Second Air Division distinguished himself in a long career by his vision, his constant personal and professional growth, his ability to make entire organizations work effectively, and the universal high regard with which he was held by all who shared his cause. In Vicki, with Kurt at her side, we are blessed with such a leader and friend.

A Poignant Closure; continued from pg.1

Through the tireless and inspired work of German researcher Enrico Schwartz, the crash site of the B-24 in the northeast of Germany was found and US Army Mortuary Affairs did the fastidious work of positively identifying mixed remains, allowing three recent individual interments and a group interment in a moving ceremony in Arlington last June 12th. The Dave McMurray crew had suffered two previous shoot-downs and one fatality prior to their final one on July 7, 1944, on the very costly Bernberg mission.

Graves Unknown

Application of rosettes next to names on the Wall of the Missing is very rare and touching closure, as was noted by the nine active duty US service members from different branches and stations across Europe, given the honor of recognizing the WW II KIA man from their home state. Local Belgian school children, elderly resistance fighters, ambassadors and military representatives of 10 NATO allies, and high US military commanders participated. The ceremony was under the aegis



Heavy Metal. One of nine US active duty service members from across Europe receives from General Wright a rosette to place beside the name of McMurray crewmember Hyman Stiglitz, from her home state of Massachusetts. See center photo on next page.

of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), and led by its Deputy Commander, Maj. Gen. Thomas B. Wright. Our thanks to Sgt. Tommy Van from that office, who coordinated many of logistics, kept all of the affected families updated, and supplied the photos.



Home state honors. Airman places rosette along name of Millard Wells, KIA 7-7-44, also from Kentucky.

Herald #32 tells the story of Schwartz and MAACRT (the all-volunteer Missing Allied Air Crew Research Team) locating the Herbert crew, also of the 492nd and long missing, and their similar memorial service and burial with full military honors in Arlington in the fall of 2002. Herald #33

carried the story (see "Shiny Copper Stars at Margraten" on page 9) of the September 2003 ceremony which similarly noted this rare closure on the Wall of the Missing at the Netherlands American Cemetery. (Back issues of the Heritage Herald can be viewed on the Newsletters tab of our website, <http://www.heritageleague.org>.)



Poignant in any language:

"On this monument are engraved the names of American fighters that having given the gift of their life to their country, rest now in unknown graves."



Wet Normandy Sand. Inscribed name has been highlighted for ceremony with soil from first liberated territory in Western Europe, and marked by rosette as no longer missing.



21-gun Salute. Spangdahlem Honor Guard of seven fired three times into the misty air of the Belgian American cemetery.

Heritage League Hall of Fame

At this, the 61st annual convention of the 2ADA, the Heritage League was pleased and proud—no other way to put it—to induct into our Hall of Fame, Ray Pytel, as the text of the award explains:

The Executive Committee of the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF) does proudly induct Ray Pytel into the Heritage League Hall of Fame, Class of 2008.

The Hall of Fame had been established to call attention to valuable and unstinting service by individuals over many years to veteran organizations of the USAAF 8th Air Force of World War II. Inductees have practiced the *honoring and remembering* which is the core activity of the League, and moreover have inspired and encouraged others to serve effectively, with dignity and grace.

Since 1994, 3,000 happy subscribers in England, Europe and all over the US have come to expect timely arrival of the Second Air Division *Journal*. This high quality, lively, informative and entertaining publication would make any organization proud, and has set a high standard widely emulated by many veteran organizations. Over this same time period, scores of 2ADA Presidents and Group Vice Presidents, and a half dozen Heritage League Presidents have also been able to rely on Editor Pytel to allow them a free forum for putting forth their important positions in the dynamic life of a big outfit with an important mission. Significantly, even when these messages involved subtle or not-so-subtle contention, Ray allowed leaders to candidly connect with the entire readership. In holding together the members and leaders as *the Editor*, and in his own valuable editorial and researched writings, Ray has contributed to the recorded legacy of the venerable 2ADA and its substantial mission, and he has earned our gratitude, admiration and affection. —*Annual Meeting, October 17, 2008*

Membership Renewals Encouraging

In early February, Membership VP Marybeth Dyer was able to report to her colleagues on the Executive Committee that the recent renewal campaign is promising; with the continuing help of our database Manager Ed Zobac, Marybeth selected 414 individuals who had been active in our rolls since the 2005 season (that is, including a few who have fallen out of currency) and that 222 had re-subscribed; 11 new members were recruited in recent months both directly at our Annual Member Meeting in Grapevine, TX, with the 2ADA in October, and on our website.

Following the practice recommended by Treasurer Sue Risley a few years ago, we have included a solicitation in the renewal

mailing for four good causes, and our renewing members have been most generous! For the general operations of the League itself, we were given \$983. Contributions to the Memorial Library in England and the Mighty 8th AF Museum in Savannah totaled \$805 and \$380 respectively. We have recorded \$309 of these contributions as gifts *honoring* living veterans and volunteers, and another \$995 as *memorial* gifts for deceased veterans, spouses and friends. Finally, for the Friends of the 2AD Memorial (our 'British cousins') we collected individual and couple memberships totaling \$272.

We are encouraged that many of you have used the PayPal renewal option on the web page. If you are one who finds that renewal option is more convenient and have not yet done so, we would ask you to go now and check out our refined site (heritageleague.org) while you are there! Webmaster Bob Books continues to keep it modern and useful.

Remembering the 466th

Catherine Thomson

Catherine Thomson has teamed with the Hethel crew to begin the launch of a new home for the 466th. We asked her how she got so interested in the Attlebridge group:

"It is a long story, but here is a short cut to my involvement. My late husband and I bought the Headquarters of the 466th back in 1980. Months later a coach of American veterans paid us a visit. We were totally unaware of the connection with our home. We learned from them all about the time they spent at Attlebridge. From this the interest started.

"We made many good friends after this visit. Later we hosted VE Day celebrations at the Headquarters and 50 years in East Anglia in 1992. Since then my husband and I sold the HQ and moved to a smaller home. Five years later he passed away. I lost contact with some of the vets and again moved home.

"Years on I have settled and have a new partner, Les. He is slowly getting involved, and seeing what I had missed, I started to make contact again with the vets. We both then decided to find a home for the few items of memorabilia I had stashed away in boxes. After visiting several old bases we came across Fred at Hethel who seemed to need some help with restoration work. We offered to help out, and he offered a home for the 466th memorabilia I had. I am trying to put together as much as I can. Fred is trying to raise around £20,000 for a Nissan hut to house all the memorabilia he has accumulated, so we help with raising money, and also with the upkeep of the building and grounds at Hethel.

"My normal life is mother to three daughters and three grandchildren, the usual housework. I also like crafts, and I make cards to raise money. Hobbies away from home are visiting chapel ruins, museums and the countryside. I also take my dog for walks."

the write stuff

book notices
& reviews

In keeping with our theme this month, we will vary our book reviews a bit by focusing on books primarily or solely about the Royal Air Force during World War II. One cannot read very much about Eighth Air Force operations without running into the partnership with or the influences of the RAF. They provided not only half the round in “round the clock bombing” and half the combination of the Combined Bomber Offensive, but also training, quarters, bases, construction, supplies and clerical staff to the fledgling Eighth.

The choices below are designed to illustrate the breadth of the RAF’s operations, as well as provide a number of eminently readable books on the topic at hand. Each is recommended and available on-line from various booksellers, often for less than \$1.00. (*All reviews by Reed Hammans*)

GENERAL HISTORIES

Bomber Command, by Max Hastings

Edition reviewed: Simon and Schuster, New York, 1989, ISBN 0-671-68070-6

Subtitled “Churchill’s Epic Campaign—The Inside Story of the RAF’s Valiant Attempt to End the War,” this book provides a start-to-finish history of RAF bombing operations. From the first disastrous daylight raids during the Battle of France, to the almost equally disillusioning Butt Report, the author chronicles the inexorable move to the strategy of area bombing, and later, its effects and effectiveness. Mr. Hastings, most recently author of the WWII air war history *Retribution*, is a popular historian of great talent. Originally written in 1979, this may still be the best available single-volume history on the topic.

The War in the Air—The Royal Air Force in World War II, edited by Gavin Lyall

Edition reviewed: Ballantine Books, New York, 1992, ISBN 345-02794-9-165

When I picked this little paperback up for \$.85 at a local used bookstore, it was merely for something to read to pass the time on a business trip. It turned out to be one of my favorite books on the RAF. Actually a compilation of excerpts from 67 different books, it provides an astonishing number of good tales and little known episodes from the air war. One story, entitled, “How to Steal a Stuka,” tells of the adventurous recovery of a German dive bomber, later used as a beer hack by the victorious RAF squadron. There is also the tale of an airman who successfully extinguished an in-flight engine fire by working his way across the wing of his stricken Blenheim by stomping his way through its fabric-covered wing. Humor also plays an important role throughout the book, as evidenced by one of my personal favorites, “The Battle of Barking Creek.”

The Air War, 1939-1945, by Janusz Piekalkiewicz

Edition reviewed: Blandford Press, Poole/Dorset, UK, 1985, ISBN 0-918678-05-6

This unique and well-researched book covers the air war in general. Though primarily focused on the European war, there is some very interesting information on the war in the Pacific. While in some respects a standard chronological history, laid out in year-by-year chapters, that is about the only ordinary thing about this book. Each year of the war (and the build-up to it) is laid out in 6-month segments. Each segment contains extensive, brief excerpts from a huge variety of period news reports and official documents and pronouncements, followed by a shorter section on strategy, tactics, and events. The news accounts and official announcements lend an immediacy to the book that is rarely accomplished in a general history. They also often lead to interesting juxtapositions: An article from an August, 1944, Swedish newspaper speculating that “the air war is decided,” followed by a dispatch from an SS correspondent assuring his readers, “Victory is near.” The Air War is also well-illustrated by tactical diagrams, exceptionally interesting maps, period documents, and dozens of photos, most of which I have not seen in other books. It’s hard to excite me with an overview history of the air war—having read so many—but this book is fascinating.

The Other Battle—Luftwaffe Night Aces Versus Bomber Command, by Peter Hinchliffe

Edition reviewed: Motorbooks International, Osceola, Wisconsin, 1996, ISBN 0-7603-0265-0

This has to be the absolutely definitive book on the night air war. The author achieves a rare and pleasing balance among the topics of operations, strategy, tactics, and technology, with compelling first-person accounts. Descriptions of technological developments, from navigation to air-borne interception and countermeasures are described in terms that are detailed, yet easy to understand. As the title implies, both sides of the battle are incorporated in this very readable volume, with nice portraits of the figures on both sides, from Bennett and Chaloner to Hermann and Wittengenstein. If you want to read only one book on the night war, this is it.

MEMOIRS

Bomber Offensive, by Sir Arthur Harris

Edition reviewed: Greenhill Books, London, 1990, ISBN 1-85367-314-5

Straight from the horse’s mouth, so to speak, this is the memoir of Marshall of the RAF Harris, most often seen as the architect of Bomber Command’s policy of nighttime area bombing. Harris was also a man of great character, stubbornness, and humor, qualities which are in evidence in this volume written shortly after the war. His career choice to become an aviator was greatly influenced by his World War I days marching around Africa as a bugle boy, after which he resolved “to find some way of going to war in a sitting posture.” Harris had many other postings in defense of the Empire, including Palestine, Iraq, and Washington, but the bulk of the book is reserved for his time at Bomber Command.

Harris became, in some circles and to this day, a controversial character, sometimes reviled for his apparent single-mindedness in bombing cities. Greenhill's reprint of this memoir revives an important view of this history—Harris' own.

Fly for Your Life, by Larry Forrester

Edition reviewed: Nelson Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1973

Strictly speaking not a memoir, but a re-creation of the exploits of Robert Stanford Tuck, D.S.O., D.F.C., and two bars. Tuck was one of the best known of the Few. The bulk of this book takes place early in the war and during the Battle of Britain itself. The final part of the book concerns Tuck's time as a POW, as well as his role in planning and executing the Great Escape. With dialogue ably written by Larry Forrester, screenwriter of *Tora, Tora, Tora*, this is an entertaining read about a memorable pilot and his comrades.

Flying Start, A Fighter Pilot's War Years, by Hugh Dundas
1989, ISBN 0-312-03967-0

This is a well-written, thoughtful account of the fighter pilots' war, written by the man who became the youngest Group Captain in the RAF. Dundas started his war over Dunkirk and fought in the Battle of Britain. He then rose to become a true leader in the less well-known battles over North Africa, Sicily, and Italy. He writes not only of his fellow pilots and their adventures, but also shows how the fear and strain of combat month after month gradually wore them down, and yet, how they managed to continue the fight till the war was finally won.

To War in a Stringbag, by Commander Charles Lamb

Edition reviewed: Nelson Doubleday, Garden City, New York, 1980

Technically, this book is not about the RAF, but the Royal Naval Air Service, specifically by a man who flew a bi-plane throughout his service—and lived to tell the tale. "Stringbag" was the nickname given to the open-cockpit, fabric-covered Swordfish, an effective torpedo plane, despite its antique-looking two wings. This book tells of yet another aspect of the air war—flying naval support in the Channel and Mediterranean. It even explores the dangerous political state of North Africa, when after evacuating Greece, Lamb eventually became a prisoner of the French!

Night Fighter, by C.F. Rawnsley and Robert Wright

Edition reviewed: Corgi Books, London, 1975

Another 50-cent bargain, *Night Fighter* turned out to be one of the most engrossing memoirs I have read. Rawnsley was a radar operator from the very rough beginnings when a mysterious black box showed up in his Beaufighter. While he had a rough introduction, he eventually became proficient in the intricacies of airborne interception, training other pilots, and transitioning to Mosquitos. Rawnsley also has the benefit of being a thoughtful, skilled writer. With his co-writer, he has brought us a fine volume, which not incidentally contributes to the personalized history of warfare and its effects on its participants.

Battle of Britain, the Story of a Film, by Leonard Mosley
Edition Reviewed: Pan Books Ltd., London, 1969

O.K., O.K. This is not a war memoir. Nonetheless, as the title suggests, it is Mosley's tale of filming the classic film *Battle of Britain*. This highly entertaining book shows the miracle of how, against great odds and probably all common sense, one of the best epic films on World War II was conceived, organized, and completed. It is chock full of stories from the battle itself and retrospective tales from veteran technical advisers, including Adolf Galland, Keith Parks, and "Ginger" Lacey. Interspersed with an overview of what was occurring in 1940 during the battle itself, the various crises, some funny, some not, that threatened the film's completion and release read like a good novel—except it was all true.

UK PUBLISHERS

There are several outstanding publishers in England. Some that come immediately to mind are Grub Street, Arms and Armour Press (part of the Cassell Group), Greenhill Books, and Hikoki Publications (part of Crécy). Here is a brief sampling of two of their works, each focusing primarily on one day in the air war.

The Last Flight of the Lufwaffe—The Fate of Schulungslehrgang Elbe, 7 April, 1945, by Adrian Weir
Edition reviewed: Arms and Armour Press, London, 1997, ISBN 1 85409 300 2

This book covers the infamous Luftwaffe ramming mission at the end of the war. The book details the formation of the unit, also known as *SonderKommando Elbe*, formed to fly one dramatic mission to ram as many USAAF bombers as possible. The author spotlights the desperate thinking behind the mission, but also the bravery of the mostly young pilots who were willing to undertake the last huge gamble. The 389th Bomb Group, as well as other elements of the 2AD, plays a prominent role in this narrative. (This mission is also featured in one episode of the History Channel series "Dogfights!")

Mission 376—Battle over the Reich: 28 May 1944, by Ivo de Jong

Edition reviewed: Hikoki Publications, Gate Farm, Marsden Hill, Crowborough, East Sussex, 2003, ISBN 1 902109 03 1

The USAAF flew a number of well-known missions over Europe during the Second World War. In this volume, the author determined to exhaustively describe what happened on one day, on an "average mission." Following an overview of the war situation, planning for the mission, and the German defenses, the book follows every unit to every target, as well as the activities of the escorts and defenders. Surprisingly readable for a book of this type, its strength lies in focus on the people, deftly weaving personal stories within the context of a massive mission. The photographs and other illustrations are plentiful and add to the narrative, rather than just taking up space.

Hikoki specializes in publishing a small number of highly researched, well-illustrated, and solidly bound volumes on military aviation. Each book is part of what appears to be a limited run, and they tend not to remain in print long.

An Act of Remembrance

Story and Photos by Carol Holiday, Secretary, Heritage League

It is once again Armistice Day in Norwich, England. The soggy wet rains ceased and the dawn arrived with a bright sunny, yet very crisp blue-sky day. We once again pay tribute to our fallen heroes. The trumpets play their eerie tones and we remember with reverence.

Assembled in the lobby of the Norwich Nelson Hotel in our best outfits we attach the symbolic poppies to our lapels and head out towards the city centre with our British Governors and friends. Started at the end of WWI, Remembrance Sunday brings a fellowship of people together for the ceremonies. In the United Kingdom and places well beyond, dignitaries will lay a wreath and hold a two-minute silence. This ceremony for November 11, 2008 is now in its 90th year. It is a solemn day, but with a break in the clouds for the morning and the forecast clear with a deep blue sky and crisp temperatures, this group is quite upbeat and lively. We are lucky to have such brilliant weather because the days before we had sleeting rain and high winds.

In attendance this year we have John and Betty Lee, Gwen and Richard Robert, Chuck and Charlie Walker, Joan Patterson, Earl Zimmerman and me, Carol Holliday. Last Post is sounded and the two minute silence begins at precisely 11 a.m.; the military personnel stand at attention, the crowds are hushed and we remember. My mind wanders back to the video images viewed on the military history channels. The image of my grandfather standing at attention during WWI, images of young flyers in B-24 bombers freezing while on bombing raids



Processional following services at Norwich City Centre, 9 November 2008. What is not evident in this black and white copy of this photo is the colorful flags providing a contrast to the otherwise somber dress and occasion.

in Europe. I try to imagine what it is like over in the Middle East for our newest military heroes. How tragedy can strike terror in the hearts of everyone in any war and how so many did not or will not return to their families in the forthcoming days. That we are amid four United States Air Force veterans, John, Robert, Earl and Chuck in their eighties and nineties still making this long journey amazes me. I am thankful and grateful because *this is the providential price of democracy*. Two minutes simply is not long enough for me to pray for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Reveille is sounded and the lonely trumpeter delivers us back to the here and now. The Reverend Peter Nokes, Vicar St. Peter Mancroft Church ends with...

“They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.”



Bertram Wolf, B-17 pilot and member of the Eighth AFHS, takes a short rest with Chuck Walker, John Lee, Dick Robert, and Lay Canon Peter Chapman, at The Chapter House, following 14 November 2008 Service of Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral in London.

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