

HERITAGE HERALD

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STILL REMEMBERING...

...STILL HONORING

Dutch citizens gathered on May 5th, Liberation Day, to dedicate marker in Opiende, North Holland, commemorating crews of an RAF Lancaster and a 389th BG Liberator, shot down over this town with few survivors. Sack-Time Sally Crew member Jim McGahee salutes at center, escorted by wife Garland to his right, then Roy Braly's widow Jeane. Nearest is Maastricht resident Laur Dolhain, who has adopted the Margraten grave of Edward Goodall. See stories in Heralds #43 and 44. Photo: Johan Kuiper



Yes, Good Times Rolled! Heritage League Convention with 2ADA in New Orleans, September 19

Orleans, September 10-13, 2010

Dick Roberts (453rd), outgoing 2ADA President acted as "King of the Convention Crewe" at the gracious French Quarter Omni Orleans Hotel, and proclaimed "Laissez les bon temps rouler!" Despite serious business by both the League and the 2ADA while there, and the sticky heat of the Crescent City, 160 conventioneers from both groups certainly had a very memorable several days!

Betty Lee and Gwen Roberts teamed well to provide Cajun dancing, live choral music, a program of city and museum tours, fine dining, southern hospitality, and conviviality. They strategically tapped many others, notably Maxine Mackey and Leaguers Carol Holliday, Irene Hurner and Brian Mahoney, and Betty's daughter Kim Moore.

The older organization convened with 52 veterans registered, thus not trirggering their dissolution clause, and allowing them to transact the important business of lowering the 'registered conventioneers' number to 20 veterans. This will allow at least another year to transact business, and another convention. They and the League discussed a proposal put to each organization, for a different way to go forward. (see: President's Message). While the provocative concept did not take immediate hold, it was received as constructive and creative, and may influence how each organization approaches looming decisions. It was not an election year for the League (we are biannual, under the new Bylaws), but the 'parent organization' voted in a new slate, with long serving representative to The Memorial Trust, Chuck Walker (445th BG), once again in the presidency.

The photo story at the center of this Herald tells the rest of the story.... Look at all those great smiles!

the write stuff

book notices & reviews

Deadly Decision

by Rick Centore

Self-published, 2009; ISBN 1-4392-6367-1

Available via http://www.492ndbombgroup.com [webStore tab, then Books tab] or Amazon.com

Reviewed by Brian Mahoney

First, a few fair disclosures: this reviewer, like the author, is a 'son of the 492nd', has also written a book based on the post-war recollections of his "Happy Warrior" father, and has befriended the author and subject, his late father. I will strive to use each of these 'insider tracks' to make this review stronger, if still subjective in both normal and these special ways.

Much of the recent work in our genre (Allied airpower in WWII) has been self-published. There are several immediate implications: mainstream news organs will absolutely, positively, never, ever give them a review. (Ever.) Traditional supportive services such as fact-checking, book design, stylistic editing and proofing, are not provided by an experienced publishing house staff. You are on your own for marketing and promotion. When Rick, himself a military veteran and a war baby, set out to present the post-war memoirs of his father, T/Sgt. Nello Centore, with added commentary and supportive historical documentation, he took on a labor of love, one with high technical and creative demands. He also put himself, as I did, in the strange position of 'fact checking/ editing' his prime historical source, his own father. On all counts, he has achieved a remarkable success, and delivered an extremely satisfying book.

Rick's father was a flight Engineer with the 492nd BG and became a prisoner of war on his eighth mission out of North Pickenham, on June 20, 1944, that hard-luck group's worst of 89 combat days. Rick lets Nello speak directly to us from his late-in-life manuscript, and supports and augments Nello's entries with corroboration or occasional correction of fact and lucid explanation of context. The effect is to make Nello's experiences—getting into the service, finding his war bride, training in a specialty, being in a crew and group, getting to England, flying combat, escaping death, and surviving imprisonment—very accessible to the general audience. Between father and son, no reader is lost on a point of technical terminology or history, but rather is cared for, given accurate pictures with the right amount of detail and personal color

and authenticity. In tone, detail and fact, in vivid story telling and accurate history presentation, they have done a remarkable job.

The craft of presenting a memoir with supportive material requires striking a delicate balance. The authenticity and historical authority of the young and responsibility-laden combatant (Nello) must be preserved in the 'voice' of his passages. The fact-checking, and context-augmenting contributions of the researcher-son (Rick) need to be strong enough to gently, respectfully correct the occasional mis-remembered fact, while also appropriately levering the account of a qualified eyewitness to contribute to the historical record. Not only does Nello "come through loud and clear," but his urbane son's fluid writing connects the first-hand stories with the historical situation, while deftly getting the reader up-to-speed on aviation and air combat of that era, using few words, chosen well.

This critical reader spends lots of free and professional time checking facts and proofreading...and knows too well the pitfalls of doing it on one's own. But not a typo, not a misstatement of fact, not a mis-shaded nuance of complex moral, technical or strategic subject, could I find. Rick and his team are to be heartily congratulated.

There is not a wasted word in its compact 116 pages. The bibliography adds value, especially for PoW related titles. This is the perfect book to introduce even young readers to our genre, and hook them in. It is also a delightful and informative read for 'old hands.'

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

-Brian Mahoney

If you have gotten a rundown on the convention in New Orleans, you will have heard of a sweeping proposal by our member, Jim Guddal (a 93rd BG son, an Associate Member of the 2ADA, and their back-up Treasurer). Jim sent it to the 2ADA Executives in mid July, and to three of your Heritage League Executive Committee Members 4 weeks later. It would have the 'parent organization' abandon its long-held intention to be a 'last-man-out' organization, with a formula for dissolution which will not take effect for at least another year. It seems premised on a doubt that the Heritage League, as constituted and presently charged, with its clear mission, its years of appropriate 'honoring and remembering' activities, its dedicated and effective volunteer leaders, and its supportive member base, is ready to carry the ball.

Jim asked for quick action and adoption of his scheme, and laid out an ordered list of practical steps to do it during the course of the joint convention in New Orleans, but it would have forced a faster (radical) change of our own Bylaws than they allow. We hold ourselves, as we did in adopting our updated Bylaws four years ago, to putting any bylaws change proposal before our membership, in writing, at the time we announce our annual membership meeting.

Both organizations will have their own issues in deliberating the many points Jim raises. We are open to hearing his points—indeed, will ask him to be much more specific and clear in stating what he perceives as problems with the current set course, long familiar to both organizations, major enough to warrant the comprehensive 'solution' he lays out. Although his proposal did not gain great or immediate traction with our membership or that of the 2ADA, we consider it part of our charge to listen carefully to his constructive critique, and be open to his and your serious proposals for going forward.

Jim's five page argument for this big change might be more compelling if it included a clear vision for the merged entity... and I would ask readers to reflect on our own, below, which we think strikes the right balance between lofty principals and a flexible range of options for fulfilling it, in actual practical ways. My own report to the annual membership meeting this year included a PowerPoint rundown of our activities over the last five years, which I think reflect very nicely on the League and the range of ways that our all-volunteer team is making the mission real. Your Heritage League is a very nice baby in the bathwater, and any serious discussion of sweeping and rapid change, will correctly hold all to acknowledging our long-term successes and strengths, and assure all that these will be built upon and refined, but not discarded.

Heritage League Mission Statement:

Purpose

The Heritage League's purpose is to perpetuate the memory of the Second Air Division of the 8th Air Force, USAAF, and honor the efforts and sacrifices of its members during World War II in behalf of freedom and peace. Through the work of its members and other entities it supports, the League promotes educational, social, cultural and commemorative activities which compellingly present this rich history to succeeding generations.

Goals

In order to accomplish its unique purpose, The Heritage League embraces the following goals:

- to offer information about the 2nd Air Division, directly or through collaborations, to descendants, students and interested others, young and old;
- to coordinate and support efforts to preserve the stories, artifacts and various memorials to the 2nd Air Division and its component units, assigned or attached;
- to continue the work of the 2nd Air Division Association in fully endowing the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust;
- to assume from the 2nd Air Division Association the roles of financially supporting the work of the American Fulbright Librarian at the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library (Norwich, England);
- 5. to encourage strong friendships and meaningful exchanges between our members and like-minded people around the United States and the world, especially in East Anglia (England); and
- 6. to provide League members with meaningful social, cultural and educational interactions and experiences as they help to achieve all of these goals.

Vision

The Heritage League shall be the honored steward of the legacy of the Second Air Division, which was earned by the service of nearly 100,000 combat and ground support personnel, 7,000 of whom made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II. Early in the new millennium this heritage will be entrusted to the League by the Second Air Division's surviving veterans.

The League will welcome all who wish to contribute to this stewardship.

League Well Represented at Margraten





Retired Dutch elite airborne paratrooper Theo Derks has adopted the Margraten Grave of a 467th BG airman, and kindly represented The League at Memorial Day Wreath Laying ceremonies there in 2009. Theo is seen behind Heritage League and other arrangements, staged for placement at Wall of the Missing. We are honored whenever we can be personally represented at annual memorial services at 5 American Battle Monuments Commission cemeteries in Northern Europe and England. Photos: Theo Derks

Thunder Over Michigan Aug 7-8, 2010

Ypsilanti, Michigan

by Carol Holliday



Collings Foundation's Liberator, coming into Thunder Over Michigan, early August. Photo: Carol Holliday

'TOM' is a annual airshow at the Willow Run Airport. That's right, where all of the Ford-built Liberators began their service! This year's show was so special that several groups arranged to hold their own conventions, or at least substantial reunions, to coincide. Many of the 150 WWII vets attending found their way to the inviting 392^{nd} BGA hospitality suite, with our own Ben Jones mixing the drinks and displaying memorabilia. The 8th Air Force Historical Society had a large gathering, as did the 445^{th} and the Kassel Mission Historical Society. The fly-in warbirds included virtually every flyable B-17, as well as the Colling's Foundation's Liberator, still proudly bearing the 467^{th} BG's "Witchcraft" livery.



2ADA members Ira Weinstein and Ray Lemons flank fellow 445th veteran, fellow Kassel Mission survivor, and fellow PoW Sam Mastrogiacomo, signing photos. Photo: Carol Holliday



392nd Vet Oak and Maxine Mackey, longtime leaders and members in both 8th AFHS and 2ADA, looking great in Michigan. Photo: Carol Holliday



New and old volunteers, New and continuing Executive Committee members, enjoying Thunder Over Michigan Gathering, and 392^{nd} BG meeting within 8^{th} AFHS gathering, Laurie Bedus, Bob Books, Ben Jones, Carol Holliday. Photo: Carol Holliday

LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL



Reflective. 492nd/467th vet Frank Bales views documentary by his squadron commander, the late James J. Mahoney. Photo: Brian Mahoney



East and downriver. St. Louis Cathedral, facing Jackson Square in middle distance, seen from hotel roof. Photo: Brian Mahoney



Bright and early advice, friendship. Ed Zobac shares quality time at breakfast with Jim Tucker. They have parallel research journeys as sons of very mum 445th BG fathers. Photo: Brian Mahoney



John and Betty Lee (Recent 2ADA President, 93rd BG), outgong 2ADA President Dick Robert (453rd) and Heritage League President Brian Mahoney (492nd/467th BGs) revel in fun and finery Betty Lee and Gwen Roberts arranged. Photo: Carol Holliday



To Good Times! John Lee (93rd) and Betty join outgoing 2ADA President Dick Robert (453rd, at center) on his stomping grounds, with returning President Chuck Walker (445th, right) ready to quaff. Photo: Carol Holliday



Frank Birmingham (458th) with his daughter Marybeth Dyer, Heritage Membership VP, and President Brian Mahoney (492nd/467th) Photo: Carol Holliday

First timers, welcomed! Jim and Patty Tucker recently lost his father (445th) and are beginning a research journey, and connecting with others in the veteran and descendant generations. Photo: Brian Mahoney





cussion and cameraderie with Ed Zobac and Jim Tucker, 445th sons on "research journeys." Photo: Brian Mahoney



After dinner glow. Guests of the 2AD Executives, Thursday evening, L-R: New Governor Anthony Harmer, Governor David Gurney, Agnes and Pat Ramm (volunteers at 389th and 453rd bases in Norfolk), Elizabeth Harmer, Andrea and Governor Andrew Hawker, and Memorial Trust Librarian Libby Morgan. Photo: Carol Holliday

Marybeth Dyer (458th), Brian Mahoney (492nd and 467th), Sue and Al Palmer (UK), Kelsey McMillan (389th), Irene Hurner (453rd), Joan Patterson (445th), Charlotte Shower (467th), Shirley and Joe Reus (445th), Jim McClain (389th), enjoying social hour Friday evening in New Orleans. Photo: Carol Holliday





Good Times Rolling! 458th vet Frank Birmingham, son-inlaw Steve Dyer, Birto Brimby 458th) during coctail hour. Photo: Marybeth Dyer



Taking it all in. Libby Morgan (2 AD Memorial Librarian) with Biel Gals (Barbie Mello, Clair Biel, Irene Hurner, all 453rd) tearing up the town. Photo: Marybeth Dyer



Authentic. HL Membership VP, Marybeth Dyer treats her father, Frank Birmingham (458th) to java and a beignet "in The Quarter." Photo: Marybeth Dyer



Shy persons convention...NOT! Volunteer guide to 453rd and 389th bases, stalwart and great friend Patt Ramm loves visiting US and 2ADA friends, has shown HL Former President Irene Hurner about on UK visits. Photo: Brian Mahoney



In good hands. Trust Governor Andrew Hawker thanks HL Secretary Carol Holliday and Betty Lee's daughter Kim Moore for their help in making this convention especially fun and memorable for all. Photo: Carol Holliday



John Lee directs lighting of Candles for Remembrance—7 for the Division's campaigns, plus one for those lost since our last meeting. Joan Patterson (widow of Dave, 445th) and Eleanor Storms (Headquarters) look on as Dorothy Krogman (Headquarters) light candle for Central Europe Campaign. Photo: Carol Holliday

Dick Robert and daughters Roslyn R. Dugan, Cynthia R. Nassauer and Mary Anne R. Johnson after one of the casual dinners, sporting shirts famously debuted at Oak Brook convention (see Herald #33, p. 16) Photo: Irene Hurner





Two robust delegations! Three of the many 453rd BG vets, Bert Biel (father of our Irene Hurner), Jack Raiser and Russell Neatrour, visited by Memorial Trust Chair Matthew Martin. Matthew led a sizeable delegation from Norwich, and they certainly added a great deal to our enjoyment of local jazz and hospitality offerings! Carol Holliday

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The Ramond Ecks (93rd BG) , Betty Lee (Convention Committee, and wife of 93rd's John Lee) with Governor David Gurney, setting the spirit of the convention early! Carol Holliday



Vieux View. Comfortable Orleans Hotel was right in the middle of it all; looking SE from rooftop pool bar. Photo: Brian Mahoney



Awesome Biel Clan! Barbara Mello, Mom Clair, sister Irene Hurner, Dad Bert, and sister Rosie Lighty, comprised one of the biggest (and certainly most fun) family delegations there. Photo: Carol Holliday



Old friends found in French Quarter. Clair Biel (453rd vet wife, mother of Irene and Barbie) Ed and Rose Zobac (445th), Irene Hurner and sister Barbie Mello (453rd) and Second Air Division Memorial Librarian Libby Morgan, braving the humidity and heat. Photo: Irene Hurner



Rose and Ed Zobac (former long-time League Treasurer, 445th) were a delight to have with us! Photo: Carol Holliday

Famous headline graced walls WWII of Museum, a fine day-trip. Strong points included presentations on the entire course of the war, as well as on the famous Higgins Boat Company,



makers of the LST landing craft that were pivotal in Africa, Sicily, Normandy, and many Pacific landings. Photo: Carol Holliday

Family Album. Carol Holliday had the clever idea behind this display; many of the conventioneers brought photos of themselves in younger years, on display in the day room. Photo: Marybeth Dyer





By Pete O'Tube, Expert

Dear Pete,

We hesitated to interrupt the the B-24 pilot in the middle of a good war story, but just what did he mean when he talked about having to "...feather #2, so the prop would not run away"?

the Derd brothers, Stanley and Ham

Dear Hamilton, Stan Derd,

By WWII, only light observation, transport and primary training aircraft were still fitted with simple fixed pitch props... advanced machines featured propeller pitch variability, via electrical mechanisms in their hubs (usually by Curtiss, and favored mostly by the Navy) or hydraulic actuators in their hubs (typically by Hamilton Stan-

dard. Say, you boys ever hear of them before??). By being able to make the pitch of each blade attack the air at a very narrow angle, or fine pitch, you could let an engine run at high speed without taking a huge bite, kinda like starting a car up in a low gear. But to get higher airspeed, and to cruise at sustainable engine speeds, rather than all-out military power, one would want the blades to take a bigger bite (coarser pitch). Prop control types ranged from manual selection systems, through semi-automatic ones, right up to fully automatic: the so-called 'constant speed propellers.' The latter, which have become commonplace and very reliable, are somewhat akin to an automatic transmission mediating between the engine and the prop, allowing the pilot(s) to merely give more or less throttle as needed to accelerate, climb, hold a speed, or slow down.

A moment's reflection will tell you that any variable pitch prop—they are now starting to put them on high end speedboats and large oceangoing vessels, for enhanced fuel economy—will entail putting a bunch of carefully machined moving parts onto a moving part, at the business end of a very powerful and very—much—moving engine. Hydraulic or electric, there's plenty of things to engineer, maintain, refine, and pray don't go wrong.

The Lib and the Fort both had 3-bladed Ham-



HL Communications VP Reed Hammans, in England for son Daniel's wedding, attended Memorial Day commemorations in Cambridge at Madingley Cemetery. Hundreds of wreaths here presented along the Wall of the Missing by active duty USAF personnel from Mildenhall. Photo: Reed Hammans

ilton Standard oil actuated variable pitch props that could go from pretty much flat against the wind (almost 0° pitch) to effectively 90°. They could be manually controlled, but also cold be set for virtually constant speed operation after climbing to elevation. An engine-run-up at the hardstand was done with chocked wheels, set brakes, and the finest propeller pitch possible. If hydraulic pressure through the driveshaft were lost, control of the pitch would go, and sometimes also the lubrication so moving parts within the hub could rapidly fail.

Ideally, if an engine failed or otherwise needed to be shutdown in flight, the pilots would manually feather the blades of that prop-knifing straight ahead and presenting minimal resistance, and not converting airstream force into rotation on the shaft.

In practice, sometimes hubs failed on good engines, and prop control was lost, requiring the engine to be shut down, and go from a 1500lb helper, about 1,200 horsepower worth, to a dead weight with a fair amount of air resistance. The thrust center of the plane moved well off its midline, imparting a yawing force toward dead engines. More on this subject in another column, if one of my readers should happen to ask.

Battle damage could take out an oil line or bind up moving parts. A non-feathered blade on a non-seized, but shut-down engine had tremendous parasitic drag. Pitched blades grabbed air, acting like powerful brakes on one side of a vehicle, and forcing the engine to crank over roughly, without running. This "windmilling" prop and the vibrating engine could severely shake the entire airframe and even break the dead engine from its mounts.

Damage or failure could also make underlubricated hub parts fail mechanically and shear from driving parts of the hub... if this prop was not locked into full feathered configuration, it could convert that airstream energy into extremely high speed spinning, on a failed unlubricated shaft. The inevitable failure entailed separation or disintegration, and at least momentary major dynamic imbalance, typically followed by a harrowing near-miss or a tragic slicing through the fuselage.

Readers are encouraged to visit wikipedia. org and read both the P-38 and the 'counter rotating propeller articles, to gain an understanding of the many issues related to design choices on single and multi-engine propeller planes.

Keep 'em flyin! Pete

Mark your 2011 Calendars!

League and 392nd Planning Convention Together; Las Vegas over Columbus Day Weekend

We left the New Orleans convention set to once again meet alongside the 2ADA in 2011. They were agreed on the concept of a meeting in the Dallas area, as all left for home. A few weeks later, though, it was announced that for 2011, possibly their last year before dissolution, the Second Air Division Association will hold its convention aboard a deluxe cruise ship to Bermuda, leaving out of Baltimore on September 17th, 2011. We wish them a wonderful time, but feel bound to offer our membership a more accessible (affordable!) convention, especially as it will be an election year for us.

We are back in the 'stand alone' convention business, having cut our teeth in 2006 in Savannah, and as very well experienced convention-goers and helpers. Your Executive Committee declares that this, and all League-hosted conventions into the future, are open to all 2AD vets, their families and descendants, and their admirers. We are open to working with parallel organizations—as we did with the wonderful 93rd BGA in Savannah—and are delighted to be partnering with the 392nd BGA in planning a Friday through Sunday program October 14-16, 2011. We will plan interesting in-hotel hospitality, a panel presentation on historical subjects, one or more optional regional excursions, and allow the following Monday (a holiday for many) as your return travel day. We are conscientiously trying to accommodate those who are still working, or would bring kids or escort their vet. We will deliver a good value for your money.

Las Vegas is a direct flight from very many US cities, and well known for great group pricing. Even if you do not care for gambling or the shows, you will find the weather in early October to be wonderful for poolside relaxation and visits with friends old and new.

We will offer more specifics in the following Herald, and as details develop, at www.heritageleague.org and in the periodic Heritage eNews. (To subscribe to the eNews, drop an email to Membership VP Marybeth Dyer; see back panel.) If you want to get involved in program planning, please contact Volunteers VP Ben Jones, who is also on the Convention Committee.

Join us in Vegas as we continue our own convention traditions!

Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF) Marybeth Dyer (458th BG) 1020 Glacier Avenue Pacifica, CA 94044

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www.heritageleague.org

Second Air Division Association Chuck L. Walker, (445th BG) *Pres.* 9824 Crest Meadow Dallas, TX 75230-5331 (214) 929-7959 b-24man@sbcglobal.net

Friends of the 2AD Memorial Colin Mann, *Chair* 19 Becclesgate Dereahm/Norfolk NR19 2BB crowitch@btinternet.com

Acting 2AD Memorial Trust Liaison to Heritage League Matthew Martin, *Chair* Dairy Farmhouse, Swardeston Norwich, Norfolk NR14 8LG, England Mtmartindairy@aol.com



2010 Heritage League Executive Committee

President Brian Mahoney (492nd/467th BG) 197 Rollstone Avenue West Sayville, NY 11796 bricamera@mindspring.com (202) 232-1423

Executive Vice President Jonathan Bickel (467th) jbickel@elcosd.org

Secretary Carol Holliday (445th BG) 109 Miramonte Drive Moraga, CA 94556 (925) 376-2088 starrynights1@comcast.net

Treasurer Sue Risley (446th BG) 682 Slade Avenue Elgin, IL 60120 (847) 741-8692 skrisley@aol.com

Communication VP Reed Hammans (492nd/466th BG) 3828 Columbine Ave. Ames, Iowa 50010 rhammans@gmail.com

Membership VP Marybeth Dyer (458th BG) 1020 Glacier Avenue Pacifica, CA 94044 (650) 355-8383 smbdyer@sbcglobal.net

Volunteers VP Ben Jones 15115 Jones Beach Road Kent, NY 14477 ben@b24.net

Past President Irene Hurner (453rd BG) 46400 San Antonio Valley Road Livermore, CA 94550 (408) 897-3029 ihurner@hotmail.com

Past President Craig Beasley (492nd BG) 3459 Celebration Drive West Valley City, UT 84128 (801) 250-8565 beasl961@cs.com

Past President Billy Sheely Johnson (492nd BG) 1526 Mt. Pleasant Drive Colonial Heights, VA 23834 (804) 526-1624 bcsjohnson@comcast.net

HL Rep to Bd. of Governors –to be appointed–

2ADA Rep to HL Jim Lorenz (466th BG Vet) 5331 East Poinsettia Drive Scottsdale, AZ 85254-4716 (480) 951-0343 jameshlorenz@aol.com