



HERITAGE HERALD

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Periodical of the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF)

“...We Happy Few, We Band of Brothers”

Laurie Bedus 392nd BG



President's Message

—Marybeth Dyer



Greetings Members and Friends of the Heritage League.....

2012 is a busy year for us as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary and get ready to join the 2nd Air Division in Chicago this coming fall the weekend of September 6, 7, and 8th.

As I sit here with my thoughts on what to write, I am thinking of all of the wonderful conventions I have attended with the Heritage League and especially when we have had our conventions with the 2nd Air Division. I often wish I

Eighth Air Force Veterans after the banquet in St. Louis. It's not too late to join us in Chicago.

would have had more of an interest in those conventions when I was younger and really wished I would have gone to the UK in 1995 when they celebrated the 50th anniversary in Norwich. My mom and dad attended and I have seen pictures and heard stories of all the American soldiers marching down the street. I remember my Mom telling me how proud Dad was to be a part of that monumental moment. Oh, how I wish I could have been there and seen that.

Part of my Dad was left at that airfield at Horsham St Faith. He grew up there like all of the airmen and endured situations we can't even dream of. All of

these conventions give these brave men and women the opportunity to share their experiences and if nothing else help bond with each other. During the war they shared their experiences and identified each other by their bomb group assignments and seventy years later the airmen of the Mighty Eighth Air Force continue to reunite each year at the reunions where they share their memories. I am so honored to have spent time with them and cherish the memories made. Our time in Chicago promises to be memorable and exciting but in order to truly understand how special these times are, don't take my word for it-join us.

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Meet the Heritage League Board

Laurie Bedus (392 BG)-VP of Communications-

Laurie lives in Connecticut with her other half Rob, their three cats and lots of fish. She loves to travel, read and write, spend time with friends and family and works as a clinical liaison for a mental health agency. Her Great Uncle John Slowik was a lead navigator with 392nd BG and was killed in action March 18, 1944 with the Books Crew. Her other great uncle Francis Bowers served with the 493rd BG and was killed in a plane crash stateside in 1946. Laurie's first reunion was in Savannah Georgia in 1999.

Bob Books (392nd BG) - Executive VP

Born a Wisconsin Cheese Head & packer fan, father was Dallas Books, a pilot in the 392nd, KIA 18 Mar 44 on "Old Glory." Attended first HL meeting was in Milwaukee about 15 years ago and is currently active in the 392nd BGMA as Vice President. Bob lives in Pensacola, FL with wife Carol and has one daughter, a son-in law and 2 grandchildren in the Milwaukee area. Bob is an active biker and sailor. He tried working once, but didn't like it and quit.

Chris Clark (489th BG) - VP of Volunteers

Bob Books 392nd BG



Chris Clark

Chris Clark was born in Washington, D.C. in 1961 and grew up in Maryland, and has lived in Ma-



League stalwarts. Seated: Clair and Albert Biel (453rd vet), Rosie and former Treasurer Ed Zobac (445th). Standing: Executive VP Bob Books (392nd), Barb Biel Mello, Ex-President Irene Biel Hurner (453rd), 2AD Memorial Trust Governor David Gurney, Communications VP Laurie Bedus (392nd), President Marybeth Dyer (458th), Ex-President Brian H. Mahoney (492nd and 467th).

nassas, Virginia since 1983. Chris's uncle, S/Sgt. Charles Franklin Clark, did a full tour with the 489th and 44th BGs, flew a total of 47 missions, received the Air Medal w/ Oak Leaf Clusters, and the DFC from Gen. Leon Johnson (MOH for Ploesti). Chris comes from a family with a deep military history dating back to the Revolutionary War and active involvement in every American War since. He is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Virginia Society-George Washington Chapter and is interested in the oral histories of WWII. Chris works as a researcher at the National Archives in Washington DC, and College Park helping the 44th Bomb Group to secure their history.

Marybeth Dyer (458th BG) - President

Marybeth became involved in the

Heritage League when she took her parents to the first stand-alone Heritage League convention in 2006 in Savannah and has been involved with it ever since. She started working on the HL's membership and is the proud daughter of Francis Birmingham, 458th BG flying out of Horsham St. Faith airfield and was a gunner and took the photos before and after the bombings. Marybeth's father and uncle were assigned to the same 458th BG crew and decided to split up should something happen. Her uncle moved to a new crew and was shot down in

Sweden on his fourth mission while her father flew 31 missions. Marybeth lives in California with her husband and has 2 children.

Irene Hurner (453rd BG) - Past President

Irene's father was a pilot of a B-24 who was in the 453rd Bomb Group of the Second Air Division stationed at

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Heritage League is working hard to get ready and this edition of the Herald is dedicated to the many activities of 2011 as well as the reunion this fall. We look forward to once again meeting alongside the 2nd Air Division and we urge all of our members to come out and support not only the Heritage League but spend some time with our heroes of the 2nd Air Division. We can listen to the stories and absorb all the details and never regret that we missed being a part of that...after all, it's these conventions that allow us to have something in common. We all knew someone or were interested in the 2nd Air Division and what they did in WWII. Don't make the same mistake I made in 1995 when I didn't go. I regret it.

2012 brings some changes to the League. We have new board members who you will meet in this edition and there are a lot of great ideas about how to strengthen and promote its cause. We welcome your thoughts as well. We need you and your contributions- pictures, stories, memories, papers- anything that will help to secure the history of the 2nd Air Division so that it is available to future generations.

In the next week, you will be receiving information on renewing your membership with the Heritage League. We invite all wives, 2nd, 3rd, 4th generations and all friends and family of the 2nd Air Division to join the Heritage League and help preserve and honor the legacy of all who served. We are asking

our Veterans to please encourage their family to join us at the convention in Chicago this year and consider joining us in our quest to preserve the memory of all who served. Our Membership Campaign this year is titled--Every MEMBER- GET A MEMBER. We are asking all current and renewing members to bring in one additional paying member into the League so that we may double our membership and make this organization stronger and better than ever. The person who brings in the most members will win a 3 year membership FREE for themselves. Now that is an incentive. Now is the time to get involved and we welcome all who are interested. Stay healthy and well. Until we meet again....

Every Member - Get a Member

2012 Heritage League Membership Drive

Welcome to our 2012 Heritage League Membership Drive. We would like to thank you ahead of time for renewing your membership or if you are new member, we welcome you. Our campaign this year is --EVERY MEMBER- GET A MEMBER. We are looking to double our membership and make this organization stronger and better than it ever was and we need your help.

Renew your membership and then ask a family member or friend if they would like to join the Heritage League. Membership forms are attached. Or the easy way to renew your membership is to go online at www.heritageleague.org under membership.

On the printed form, they should put your name at the bottom of the form so we know who to give credit for the membership. On-line- simply put in the sponsor section. The person who brings in the most members will win a 3 year membership FREE. That is a \$45.00 value.

So the goal is to have every current member bring in at least one new member. With your help, we can expand and grow.

So do not delay....go online at www.heritageleague.org

- Please fill out all of the information requested especially your correct email address
 - If you are sponsoring a member, meaning if you are paying for a membership, please fill out the top part of this form. Many members want to pay for family members and/or friends and this field allows us to know who is sponsoring the member. Use this space to put in your Every Member-Get a Member name.
 - If you are a descendent of a 2nd AD Veteran, please make sure you give us the veteran name and bomb group information
 - The modified form now allows you to- not only pay for your membership but to make additional contributions to the Heritage League, Library and 8th AF Museum and then calculates the total amount. Your additional donation can be in honor of or memory of someone special. Those names will be listed in the Herald.
 - We strongly encourage you to pay through PayPal. It is a safe and secure way for you to pay your membership and contribute.
- ("Member Get a Member" Continued on page 10)*

Heritage League

by Brian Mahoney

Each year, on the weekend closest to “the eleventh day of the eleventh month, at the eleventh hour,” mindful of the start of the World War I armistice, somber and formal remembrance ceremonies, for the dead of “The Great War,” WW II, and other conflicts, are held in Norwich, seat of County Norfolk, the heart of East Anglia, where the US Eighth Air Force had over 300,000 personnel from 1943-45.

Both the Second Air Division Association, and the Heritage League since its founding following a Norwich reunion a quarter of a century ago, maintain mutually appointed representatives to the Governors of the 2AD Memorial Trust. These diligent and caring volunteers oversee “the Library.” The League’s long-serving member in that role, Vicki Brooks Warning (466th daughter) retired from it in 2009, and I have twice been honored to serve as our ‘temporary’ representative, deferring to my successor, President Marybeth Dyer (458th daughter) and Trust Chair Matthew Martin to make the next official, mutual appointment. For the 2ADA, Chuck Walker

this colorful and moving service, which has parallels over ‘Remembrance Weekend’ at many former USAAF fields in the region. Fred Squires, known to many of us from stateside 2ADA reunions, coordinates at Hethel, where fresh baked goods and hot drinks were most welcome while enjoying the well-conserved chapel/museum, and warm company.

Sunday commemorations in the City of Norwich begin at the recently completed Memorial Garden, opposite City Hall, overlooking the ancient marketplace, and adjoining “The Millennium Forum.” This last is the stunning modern edifice housing our Memorial Library with the Norwich Library, as well as a BBC bureau and a very popular café. Leading up to the eleventh hour, arrayed cadets, active duty and veteran military outfits dignified the laying of a score of wreaths, a sermon by the Deacon of nearby St. Peter Mancroft, and a two minute silence, maintained by the very substantial crowd, before the pealing of eleven bells. The weather was perfect



Wreath laying ceremony outside restored chapel at 389th BG's Hethel Station.

(445th vet) continues long service as their voting presence on this important board, and has probably made the trans-Atlantic hop more than anyone in any of the three organizations.

As last year in November, we enjoyed unseasonably mild weather, allowing for visits to airfields and for various group commemorations to be held outdoors. My good friend and gracious local host, Perry Watts, collected me right off my flight to Norwich, via Amsterdam, and whisked me to the annual commemorations at Hethel. I was honored, with Dick Robert (453rd veteran) to review and receive the salute from the two dozen parading British veterans at the end of



Having lain wreaths between City Hall and Marketplace,

Represented In England

Heroes: Sept. 1944

for the half-mile parade through mostly pedestrian ways in quaint Norwich, to the full, sun-drenched Norman cathedral, followed by an informal lunch for those attending from the League, the Memorial Library, the 2ADA, and close local friends.

Monday the Annual General Meeting (AGM) followed an informal lunch. Once again, it was clear that the management of endowed funds to operate the Library, books acquisition, and the American presence programs, is in very capable hands. My report on the League, with an eye toward the evolution of our relationship to the Memorial Trust as their American partner, in succession to our 'parent organization, the 2ADA, was well received. At the conclusion of the AGM, we were treated to a program presenting and inaugurating the launch of the catalog of the memorial Library's archival holdings, within the Norfolk Record Office. Readers will recall that funds given in honor of the late Evelyn Cohen and Jordan Uttal, giants of the 2ADA, were applied

to this professional work. While digital surrogates of the archival holdings were not part of this foundational work, it is now clear to all how many items are held, and all are broadly described and, importantly, findable. You are encouraged to 'go have a look' at <http://nrocat.norfolk.gov.uk/DServe/public/searches/nrousaaf.htm>, and see how a state-of-the-art cataloging project organized the information. Original materials themselves have been housed in proper protective covers and treated as needed for greatest useful life. County Archivist John Alban and the staff and consultant pros were on hand, with samples of the conserved collection, to explain how trained local volunteers levered the funds to complete the work ahead of schedule and budget.

Our longtime friend, member, and our liaison to the Friends of the 2AD Memorial for many years, David Hastings, presented the Archivist with records relating to the flight of the Diamond Lil B-24 from the then Confederate Air Force, to Norwich from the US, in 1991.

I was unable to stay in England long enough to hear the biannual lecture, celebrate the tenth anniversary of the new Library setting, or attend subsequent services in the American Chapel at St. Paul's in London, beset this year by 'Occupy Wall Street' sympathizers. In my absence, though, the League sponsored a champagne toast to congratulate the Memorial Trust and the Library staff on 10 brilliant years since the re-dedication.

2nd Air Division headquarters, Ketteringham Hall



Lady Mayor's entourage retires before parade to cathedral.



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2nd Air Division Memorial Library

Report of the Trust Librarian Libby Morgan for the 2ADA Convention (September 2011)

It's a pleasure and a privilege to be here, to present my annual report on the activities of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich.

Statistics 2010/11

Whilst our 2011 visitor numbers are lower than 2010, our annual statistics for 2010/11 show that our book issue figures are continuing to rise, and the total number of hits on our website has increased by 10,675.

2010/11 Book Issues		Visitors	Open Days	Daily Average	
		Website Hits			
Q1	11695	74	158	2179	22261
Q2	12365	78	158	2049	24137
Q3	11506	75	153	2372	24418
Q4	11883	75	158	2627	24334
Total	47449	302	157	9227	95150

2009/10 Book Issues		Visitors	Open Days	Daily Average	
		Website Hits			
Q1	13127	73	180	2144	17638
Q2	12853	78	165	2102	20278
Q3	11623	75	155	2059	22471
Q4	12504	76	165	2734	24088
Total	50107	302	166	9039	84475

Library Visitors

In addition to our regular Norfolk library patrons, we continue to welcome visitors from across the world to the Memorial Library, including of course 2nd Air Division veterans, their families and friends. Comments from our visitors' book show how much the Memorial Library is appreciated by those that visit us....

A great tribute to the American Army Air Force

A gorgeous living memorial and wonderful staff

The library never ceases to amaze me !

A moving experience – lovely memorial

Thanks for giving us a future

UEA American Scholars

Our UEA American Scholars Beth Southard and Elizabeth Rawitsch have had a busy and successful year. Their recent "Beyond Cowboys and Indians" event was extremely well received, and encouraged a new audience into the Memorial Library, and we're looking forward to the Autumn lecture series they have planned - an exciting new development for the Memorial Library. Elizabeth is staying with us for another year, and we will be joined by Kathryn (Kate) Anderson at the beginning of October.

[Beth and Elizabeth's annual report was published in the recent Summer/Fall 2011 issue of the 2ADA Journal.]

Events and Activities 2010/2011

A busy year with lots happening, this is a selection from the Memorial Library diary...

22/9/10 Presentation using clips from our sound archive "American Invasion Remembered"

1/10/10 WW2 Reminiscence Coffee Morning with Pat Everson from Seething

7/10/10 WW2 workshop at Hoveton Primary School

11/10/10 WW2 workshop at Hockering Primary School

19/11/10 WW2 workshops at Burnham Market / Walsingham Primary Schools

25/11/10 Memorial Library staff attended 2AD Memorial Friends' Thanksgiving Dinner

13/12/10 Norwich Wensum and Yare 41 Club visit (with talk and film presentation)

04/01/11 Staff attend Forum Trust's "30 Missions" exhibition launch event

08/01/11 Talk and film presentation "Flying a Mission with the Mighty 8th Air Force"

15/1/11 Visit by a group of American students (20 min talk and tour)

21/2/11 Visit from 6 students (adult learners)

7/3/11 Visit from St John's School, Hoveton

10/3/11 "American Memories Morning" at Norfolk Record

Office (NRO)

- 17/3/11 Visit from Thompson Primary School
 - 21/4/11 “American Airplane Adventure” in Children’s Library at the Millennium Library
 - 20/5/11 Visit from St Andrew Rotary Club (with tour / talk / film presentation)
 - 31/5/11 “Come fly with the American Army Air Force” activity for children at NRO
 - 12/6/11 Staff attend Hethel Gala Day with Memorial Library / Friendly Invasion displays
 - 15/6/11 Visit from Stibbard School (90 children)
 - 20/6/11 “Beyond Cowboys and Indians: The American West in Film, TV & History”
 - 21/6/11 Memorial Library display at Armed Forces Day at The Forum in Norwich
 - 22/6/11 Visit from Norwich HEART & International Writer’s Circle Tour Group
 - 24/6/11 Visit from Hockering School (24 children)
 - 2/8/11 “American Tall Tales” in Children’s Library at the Millennium Library
 - 10/9/11 The UK chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) hold their committee meeting in the Memorial Library and donate £250.00 towards the purchase of some new books on American history for high school students.
 - 11/9/11 Staff attend the Seething Air Show with Memorial Library / Friendly Invasion displays
- A printed summary of the year’s activities “A Year in the life of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library” is available for everyone.

Working with Norfolk Record Office

The Evelyn Cohen / Jordan Uttal Archive Cataloguing project is drawing to a close, and the new archive catalogue will be launched at the Memorial Trust’s AGM in November.

The “American Memories Morning” reminiscence event at the Norfolk Record Office in March, with photographs and documents from the 2nd Air Division Archive, was very well attended, and the “Come fly with the American Army Air Force” children’s activity in May was very successful – with a turn out of twenty eight young people and carers. We are planning another children’s activity with the Record Office for the coming October half-term holiday, called “Far

from home: Evacuees and American Airmen in Norfolk”. We’re also working together on the production of an online learning resource which will include sound clips, digitized copies of photographs and documents from the 2nd Air Division Archive and Memorial Library collections.

Website and Social Networking

In addition to our new website which was launched last September, Beth and Elizabeth have worked hard this year to promote the Memorial Library via our facebook site <http://www.facebook.com/2ndair>, blog www.2ndair.wordpress.com and we have an embryonic You Tube Channel www.youtube.com/2admemorial (still a work in progress).

New Fiction Collection

There is no doubt that our new American fiction collection, launched in February this year, is bringing new patrons into the Memorial Library. We are monitoring the performance of this new collection for the first 12 months, and it’s great to see that we’re exceeding the book issues target we set for the collection :-

Statistical Summary

Number of items in collection	134
Target monthly issues	75
Monthly issues to date	79.54

The two top issuing titles are Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Philip K Dick’s *The Man in the High Castle*.

The Year Ahead

Looking ahead we already have a series of events organised for the autumn – our new public lecture series, with visiting lecturers from the University of East Anglia, a reminiscence event exploring the role of women in WW2, a discussion about Mark Twain’s “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” during Banned Books Week, and a children’s activity with the Record Office in the October half-term holiday.

In November we remember the 10th anniversary of the rededication of the Memorial Library in the new Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, and we’re looking forward to celebrating the occasion with our local friends and support-



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ers. We can be very proud of all that the Memorial Library has achieved since relocating to its new home in 2001, and we're looking forward to the next ten years.

In 2012 we will be remembering the 70th anniversary of the "Friendly Invasion" when the Eighth US Army Air Force first arrived in Norfolk, and we're working together with colleagues in Libraries, Museums and the Norfolk Record Office to develop a visitor trail celebrating Norfolk's historic and cultural links with North America, and a year long activities and events programme is planned. We're also looking forward to the 2012 Olympic Games, and on the 4th July next year the Olympic flame will be coming to Norwich !

The Memorial Library is a unique "living memorial" to the 7,000 young Americans of the 2nd Air Division who lost their lives during the Second World War. We tell their story (and yours) keeping their memory alive for future generations, ensuring the achievements and sacrifices made by the men and women of the 2nd Air Division and the Mighty 8th Air Force during World War Two will never be forgotten by the people of Norfolk and East Anglia.



Memorial Trust Librarian Libby Morgan and League Ex-President Irene Hurner (453rd) enjoy the cruise reunion of the 2ADA last autumn.

Libby Morgan (Trust Librarian)
2nd Air Division Memorial Library
15th September 2011

("Heritage League Represented" Continued from page 5)

Warm and sombre. 453rd vet and returning 2ADA president Dick Rober was accompanied on trip by his daughter, Xxxv Vvvv. 2AD Memorial Trust Chair Matthew Martin and other British attendees welcomed Americans with warmth, matched by mild weather for Remembrance Day commemorations.



Serious Reenacting. Four 50mm guns ganged for mobile anti-aircraft duty was effective and important for US forces in Battle of the Bulge; one of four pristine period vehicles at Hethel service.



Important Guest. 2ADA President Robert listens to reports at 2 AD Memorial Trust's Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Norfolk County Offices. American Scholars Xxxv Vvvv and Yyyyy Wwww, and Trust Librarian Libby Morgan, seen behind, and Governor representative to the League, David Gurney, at right in back. All photos with this article by Brian Mahoney



Remarkable Relic. Despite a period of post-war neglect, this original mural from chapel at USAAF Station # 142 lasted until 'discovery' by concerned volunteers, protecting it from the elements, set backdrop for Hethel Museum.

Convention 2012 Chicago!

Does it feel like déjà vu to anyone else? The Heritage League will be once again holding our annual meeting alongside the Second Air Division for what may well be their final party, in the town where it all started 65 years ago!

We will be helping a lot with the program, and watch our web page (<http://www.heritageleague.org/reunions.htm>) for updated details on program. We know the town and how to have some fun there. Please join us as we ramp-up our own 'fun reunion habit' as we move from 'deputy lead' to 'formation lead' position. Your Executive Committee knows that our mission needs affordable social get-togethers and is prepared to run informative, entertaining, enjoyable reunions 'perpetually.' We will welcome all generations, and will make our hosted reunions as welcoming to the vets in the future as they have done for us, over our 25 years.

We were with them in the Oak Brook suburb in 2003, and

then again in Oak Park in 2009. Besides pizza, jazz, museums, the Cubbies and other pro sports teams, the Windy City showcases some of our country's finest architecture from significant periods a century ago and then again from the 1960s through the 80s.

The Hilton Rosemont is near O'Hare Airport, has free shuttle service three times an hour, indoor pool, exercise facility, and gracious accommodations for guests and meetings.

Been a while since you came to a convention? Or have you been holding out for the 'right one'? This will be a great, historical one to attend! Besides our short-and-sweet annual member meeting, we promise to deliver you some Chicago fun, some WW II history, and a very warm welcome. We will offer volunteer opportunities and receive your energy and ideas for carrying our important mission into the future.

31st Annual 2ADA SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRUNCH

THE DATE HAS BEEN SET
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

31st Annual 2ADA

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
BRUNCH

When: June 30, 2012

Reception-9:00 a.m

Program & Brunch 10:00 a.m.

Where: The Phoenix Club

1340 S Sanderson Ave, Anaheim, CA

The Anniversary of D-Day is marked on June 6th. What better time to honor our veterans than the month of June and near the 4th of July when we celebrate our freedoms that these vets have fought and died for?

Many are members of the Second Air Division Association, the 8th Air Force Historical Society and other organizations honoring those who served in World War II. An invitation is being extended to groups who flew and supported B-25s, B-17s, and P-51 Flyers. Everyone is welcome.

The day will include a champagne brunch buffet, entertainment, and a speaker.

A Raffle: benefiting the Second Air

Division Memorial Library in Norwich, England, the Mighty Eighth Air Force Heritage Museum in Savannah, GA and the B-24 Memorial in San Diego, CA has been made possible by Peggy Learman the coordinator of the event, and her father-in-law, a VP of Consolidated Aircraft Company has been instrumental in finding donors of prizes that are, as much as possible, made in America.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Contact Mrs. Richard Learman, 19317 Vista Grande Way, Porter Ranch, CA 91326. Phone (818) 366-6972. Or, check the Heritage League website www.heritageleague.org for information as it becomes available.

SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION 65th ANNUAL CONVENTION

SEPTEMBER 6, 7, 8, 2012

REGISTRATION FORM Name_____

Spouse_____Bomb Group_____

Others_____

Address_____City_____

State_____ZIP_____Phone_____Fax_____E-mail_____

Price for the Convention includes breakfast on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Dinner on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The price per person includes the \$20.00 registration fee to pay for Hospitality Room, Entertainment, and miscellaneous administrative expenses.

Price per Person___\$339.00 Number in your party TOTAL \$_____ Registration form and payment must be received on or before August 10, 2012.

Make your check payable to SECOND AIR DIVISION ASSOCIATION. Your cancelled check is your receipt. So sorry, but I have no facilities for credit card payments. Complete this form then mail your form and check to:

Maxine Mackey, Conventions Chairman 6406 E. Presidio St: Mesa, Az. 85215

The Hilton Rosemont Hotel provides complimentary transportation between Chicago O'Hare Airport and the Hotel. Complimentary parking is also provided at the Hotel.

Note: THE HERITAGE LEAGUE will be having their annual Convention in conjunction with this Second Air Division Association Convention.

butions. It is quick and very easy to use.

If you prefer to pay by check, please print out the form and send the check to the address listed on the form.

Please help us continue our work by encouraging 2nd and 3rd generation in your family to join us in our mission. You will find detailed information on our purpose, vision and goals of the Heritage League on our website.

The Heritage League is always looking for volunteers. There are several ways in which you can help the League. You can help with the Herald, by submitting articles, research findings and related stories about our veterans. We also need volunteers for convention support, planning regional get-togethers and outings. Please email our Volunteers VP, Chris Clark- clarkhistory@aol.com to discuss opportunities.

We thank you for your membership.

Gaby Fischer

Gaby Fischer (458th BG)

VP-Membership

1020 Glacier Ave

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(*"Heritage League Represented"* Continued from page 3)

“We Do Not Remember Days; We Remember Moments...”

This past October, the members of the Heritage League joined the 8th Air Force in St. Louis for their annual reunion. It was a time filled with reminiscing, celebration and paying tribute to those who were not able to join us. The Heritage league held their annual meeting, welcoming Bob Books of the 392nd BG to the Board as Vice President. Lisa Niehoff joined the

Board as Secretary and Marybeth Dyer assumed the Presidency.



Veterans of 392nd BG: Front row sitting L-R: Perry Onstot, Jim Goar, S.J. Elden, Tom Perry. Standing L-R: M/Sgt Allen Holtman, USAF (Ret.), Bob Harned, Jack Rotzien, Joe McNiel, Aubrey Burke. Not in photo, Red Sprowls. Jim and S.J. are holding the Crusader emblem that M/Sgt Holtman places on the grave of 1/Lt Charles Rudd and 2/Lts Robert J. Benson and William A. Spencer at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery every Memorial Day.

Marybeth Dyer & Laurie Bedu



Allen Holtman & Jim Goar



Members of the 392nd BG visited the impressive site of the Jefferson Barracks and spent time at the graves of the 43 men who served the 392nd

BG and while the days were filled with exploring St. Louis, the nights were filled with individual group dinners and a formal banquet on the final night. For the members of the 392nd BG and the Heritage

League, the shared hospitality suite provided comfortable space to relax and unwind, catch up and get to know each other and thus friendships grew and ideas were born. It was a wonderful weekend and the

following pages highlight the time we spent together. Please join us in Chicago and make some memories of your own!



Tom Perry & Laurie Bedus

Tom Perry & Bob Harned in 392nd BG hospitality suite

Ben Jones and Jim Marsteller, 392nd Bomb Group at Jefferson Barracks in front of the grave of a member of Jim Marsteller's uncle's crew. KIA 3-18-44.

Allen Holtman, custodian for the graves of the 392nd Airmen buried at Jefferson Barracks, St. Louis, MO

Prime Source Material. Researcher extraordinaire Annette Tison, niece of Doug Franke, KIA, debriefs one of the 392nd originals, Joe McNiel.



Mary Beth Dyer, David Gurnsey, Rose and Ed Zobac and family of Irene Hurner



Entertained Biel ladies. Barb Mello, mom Claire, sister Irene Hurner, League Ex-President, taking in an equally age-defying troupe of dancers, after diner Friday evening.



Jefferson Barracks: left to right: Bill McCutcheon, Jim Marsteller, Tom Perry, Rose Zobac, Ben Jones, Jack Rotzien, Ed Zobac



St. Louis Strutters! Vivacious and extremely youthful, and all but two in this fabulous troupe, Friday eve's entertainment, were between 72 and 84 years of age!



Between former Treasurer Ed Zobac (445th) and Ex-President Irene Hurner (453rd) we have three decades of League board-service excellence... and LOTS of stories! Irene became the third recipient of our General Wm. Kepner Distinguished Life Service Award.



Harry Tanner, President 8th Air Force Historical Society & Marybeth Dyer, President Heritage League



Barb Mello, sister Irene Hurner (453rd), Marybeth Dyer (445th) and Brian Mahoney (492nd and 467th) about to ascend the Gateway Arch, on a perfect day.



Family members of the Books Crew KIA 3-18-44, Bob Books, Laurie Bedus & Jim Marsteller



Solid. 392nd vet Jack Rotzien taking in civic sights of St. Louis.



Great Perspective. To incoming President Marybeth Dyer (458th), legacy of Ex-President Irene Hurner (453rd) is a bit large, but in our League, 630 feet is not that much of a reach!

Renewal / Application for Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division (USAAF)

**Please return this page with your check,
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Gaby Fischer- Membership- VP
1020 Glacier Avenue
Pacifica, CA 94044
gabyfischer@sbcglobal.net**



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ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Contribution to the Heritage League operations

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

\$ _____

Contribution to 2nd Air Division Memorial Library-
England \$ _____

Contribution to the Mighty 8th Museum (Savannah,
GA) \$ _____

TOTAL

ENCLOSED \$ _____

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<http://www.heritageleague.org/>

(“Meet the Board” continued from Page 2)

Old Buck. He flew 35 missions before coming home in the spring of 1945. After being severely damaged on a mission, Irene’s father got his plane and his crew back to their base safely and received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his efforts. Irene was born that fateful day serving as a reminder of the mission. Her introduction to the Second Air Division Association was in 1987 when her parents invited her to travel with them to Norwich, England for a reunion and the commencement of the Heritage League. Eventually Irene became a member of the Executive Committee as Vice-President, President, and then Past-President and has attended most of the conventions since 1987 including several in England.

Brian Mahoney (492nd and 467th)-Past President

When his father died in late 1998, Brian embarked on a research journey, to prepare his unique memoirs, as a young deputy commander of a bomb group, into an historical account, in the era when “The Greatest Generation” and “Saving Private Ryan” had driven a huge wave of titles to the bookshelves for an eager public. Brian soon connected with his two groups’ veteran’s organizations and the Second Air Division Association, and the Heritage League. Besides meeting many who served with his father and had stories for Brian and his siblings that they never would have learned from their father, Brian met many others on similar ‘journeys’ of learning about the motivations, personal histories, and characters of their WW II relatives.

The League has supported and encouraged Brian socially and collegially, in honoring and remembering the vets, and it continues to be a fine outlet for his volunteer work, and for connecting strongly with a bigger ‘family.’



Lisa Niehoff (friend and contributor)-Secretary

Lisa lives in Huxley Iowa and works for a human services agency where she is responsible for their agency newsletter. A long time contributor, Lisa brings her talent and creativity to the Heritage League as their Secretary and enjoys research, writing, and tending to her garden

Sue Risley (446th BG)-Treasurer

Born in Elgin, Illinois to J. Audley and Fern S. Risley. Sue’s father “Ris” was a co-pilot in the 446th BG, stationed in Bungay. Ris was a strong supporter of the Heritage League and was instrumental in getting Sue involved with the League. Sue moved back into her family home, in Elgin, after the deaths of her parents in early 2008. She commutes to Chicago where she has worked as an accountant for the same firm for 31 years. Sue was introduced to England by her parents when she met them in London after they had attended a 2ADA convention. Sue has attended many 2ADA conventions since then. She has spent many good times with her parents in Norwich at the Adam and Eve Pub



Billy Sheely Johnson (492nd BG)-Past President

Billy Sheely Johnson was born in Lake City, Florida and her father, William F. “Bill” Sheely was a member of the 492nd Bomb Group, 859th Squadron. He was the tail gunner for the “Superwolf.” He was KIA during his 19th mission the Bernberg, Germany July 7, 1944...approximately 3 months prior to her birth, October 22, 1944. Billy currently lives in Colonial Heights, Virginia and has two daughters, Elizabeth and Ashley, who live in nearby Chester and Richmond, Virginia, respectively. She has one grandchild, William Sheely “Will” Nix, named for his great grandfather. Billy is a retired public school Library-Media Specialist and currently works part-time as a docent for the City of Petersburg, Virginia’s three Civil War related museums.



Billy became acquainted with Second Air Division Association and its Heritage League while attending a 2ADA Convention in Norwich, England in 1990 and became Vice-President in 1992 and President in 1993-1996.

Gabriela Fischer

Gabriela is the grand-daughter to Frank Birmingham who served in the 458th. She became involved with the Heritage League thanks to Marybeth Dyer. She spends her free time with her husband and their two children. When not with her family, Gabriela works full-time and enjoys traveling, reading, and crossfit!

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