



HERITAGE HERALD

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OUR AMAZING HERITAGE LEAGUE TRIP TO NORWICH—MAY, 2014

by Irene Hurner

When the Executive Board voted to hold its 2014 annual convention in Norwich, England, I was excited. A convention committee was formed, and, somehow, I was elected Chairman. Some on the committee had been to Norwich for a convention, to attend an Annual General Meeting of the Memorial Trust Governors, some had traveled on their own, and/or some had never been able to go to Norwich. So, we had a mix. For those who had been to Norwich, it was their desire that attendees, including our veterans, have a chance to:

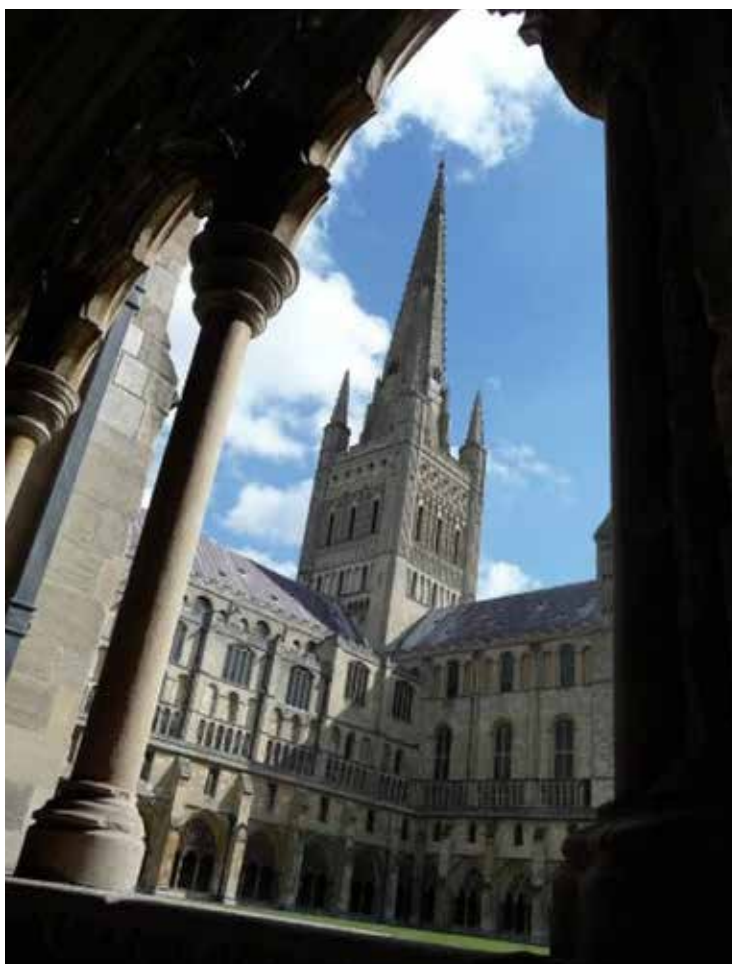
- visit the old bases with their veteran
- see sights that our veterans may have seen
- meet the people who were in the area during the war
- thank those who care for the memorials and lay wreaths in our veterans memory
- get to know those who have used their time, money, and energy to take Americans out to the bases where their veterans were stationed
- thank the British for all they have done and continue to do to preserve the memories and the memorials.

For those that have never been able to go, no matter how much they hear how special Norwich and the surrounding area have been to the veterans and their families, one must actually go for a visit to truly understand. Thus, our itinerary near the 70th anniversary of D Day was an effort to give those who were able to go an unforgettable experience and, hopefully, a desire to return one day soon. Past issues of the Herald and other stories have, and will give, a brief list of the activities during the week from May 25th to May 30th. I want to list some of the efforts made to make the wishes of the convention committee come true so that our group would have a trip that will not be able to be repeated in its entirety.

Eight veterans who served on aircrews, as an MP and as a chief mechanic crew leader were

able to make the trip. Some came alone, some with family and some with friends. But they came, and how inspirational they were! Thank you, fellows: Robert Birmingham, 458th; Aaron Boxer, 491st; Francis Cartier, 453rd; Robert Hall, 489th; Burton Madison, 453rd; Oliver Morris, 453rd; Harvey Naber, 392nd; and Don O'Reilly, 44th/491st.

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Norwich Cathedral. Photo: Art Peterson

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Our Annual Heritage League (HL) Reunion/Convention, held in Norwich England over Memorial Day week, was an outstanding success! I wish all of you could have joined the 8 WWII veterans and 43 others to share the experience first-hand. But you can read about the experience from a variety of perspectives in this issue of the Heritage Herald, from former Heritage League president and trip planner extraordinaire Irene Hurner, to Gold Star son Art Peterson; from veteran Burton Madison’s daughter Debbie Simms, to our youngest traveler, 9-year-old Olivia Koester. Even those who were on the trip will enjoy seeing things through new eyes. And of course, there are lots of great photos!



Pres. Beverly Baynes Tomb

We had a very important strategic and business milestone during our trip, too. At the meeting of the 2nd Air Division (2AD) Memorial Trust Governors on Thursday, May 29, the Governors approved a voting Governor’s seat for the Heritage League. I will be the Heritage League Trust Governor, with the ability to appoint a delegate over time. Why is this important?

The IRS only allows tax deductibility (for US individuals, estates and corporations) to off-shore charities under narrowly controlled circumstances. The mission of the foreign charity must be consistent with the allowed educational or charitable purpose of a recognized US non-profit, and that US non-profit must have ‘reasonable fiscal oversight’ of the foreign charity, to ensure funds from the US are used for allowed purposes.

Until it’s dissolution in 2012, the Second Air Division Association, with its voting 2AD Memorial Trust Governor, was able to be a conduit for deductible contributions to The 2AD Memorial Trust. Now, the Heritage League, as an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit, with a mission statement that includes the honoring and remembering activities performed by The Trust, can take on this vital fiscal connection.

Moreover, The Trust, given its unique mission, is always keen to have an authentic American perspective for input and oversight of their programs. The new formal relationship reflects the common purpose between the Heritage League and The Memorial Trust.

Our 2015 Heritage Reunion/Convention will be held in conjunction with the 8th AF Historical Society Reunion in Omaha, Nebraska, with more details to come. I look forward to seeing those of you who will be attending the 2014 8th AF Historical Society Reunion in Nashville, TN over Columbus Day weekend.

PS: For the first time in the Herald, we are including the full text of a Candle-lighting ceremony. The text of the ceremony at the closing banquet in Norwich was especially created for the occasion by Heritage League secretary and past-president Brian Mahoney and vice president of volunteers, Chris Clark. Those lighting the candles were carefully selected by Chris Clark, who also served as MC for the ceremony. I hope you will enjoy reading it!



Governor Richard Middleton and Beverly Tomb at the AGM. Beverly presents Richard with a check for the Memorial Library. Photo: Colin Mann.

A Banquet Tribute

by Chris Clark

The banquet on Thursday May 29th was truly one of a kind. We stayed in Norwich at the Maids Head, founded in 1287. I was honored to be Master of Ceremonies. Brian Mahoney and I wrote the candle lighting ceremony. There was not a dry eye there, even the bartender said it was brilliant, brilliant. We had evensong at Norwich Cathedral, which is about 900 years old and an evensong at St. Paul’s American Chapel, in London, where the Heritage League was introduced over the PA system. Everybody had the best of time at their own bases on Return to Base Day. The 2AD Memorial Trust Governors in England made one member of the HL a voting member of the Trust, Beverly Tomb, our President. We went to the library, and the BBC was there to interview the vets for radio, TV, and film.

Thanks, Chris



Wreath of 8th AFHS prepared with scores of others for solemn laying at Wall of Missing at Cambridge Memorial Cemetery on Memorial Day. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



Farewell Banquet. Clockwise, from lower left: two British flag bearers, John Gilbert, Chris Clark, additional British flag bearer, William Gleaves (44th brother), Alex Geldard and Colin Mann. Without Colin and Alex the reunion would not have turned out as well as it did. (Note faces in mirror.) Photo: John Page.

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Sue Risley and Marybeth Dyer give Heritage League conference bags to Jim Birmingham and his father Robert at Maids Head Hotel. Photo: Beverly Tomb.

Deborah Cubbin of the Maids Head Hotel and her support

staff reviewed the reservation list and consulted with our Membership Vice-President Marybeth Dyer to be sure that everyone registered had a room available, that the meals ordered were accounted for, that the banquet room was prepared, and the food served correctly.

The itinerary that was developed to keep us on schedule was reviewed many times with comments by Tom at Spratts Coaches to help allow boarding and travel times. We were on time to every event. Thank you Tom, and drivers.

During planning throughout the year, Libby



Membership VP and Past President Marybeth Dyer (458th) chats with John Gilbert between registrar duties. Photo: Evan Thomas.

Morgan, Trust Librarian, anticipated many things that may need consideration and was kind enough to mention them. While we were there, Libby and the staff made a room available at

the library for our use. There were tea, coffee and biscuits at the ready. It was most appreciated.

Though he couldn't attend, Earl Wassom, Chaplain for the 8th Air Force Historical Society, wrote and sent prayers to be used on four separate occasions during our gatherings. The prayers were unique to each occasion and truly appreciated.

Evensong at Norwich Cathedral has been a special part of many 2ADA conventions. So, Sunday Evensong was our first gathering. Earlier in the year, we were told that there would not be a choir on Sunday afternoon as it was mid-term holiday for the schools. Communications by retired Me-



Treasurer Sue Risley (446th) at registration dispensing one of the attractive reunion keepsakes. Photo: Evan Thomas.

memorial Trust Governor David Hastings and others let the Cathedral clergy know our wish to attend. In concert with Reverend Canon Richard Copper, and Reverend Canon, Jeremy Haselock, Precentor, David Dunnett, organist, arranged for members of the Cathedral Consort to sing, and secured permission to play the Fanfare to the Second Air Division at

the end of the service. The Fanfare had been especially commissioned in honor of the Second Air Division by David Hastings many years before. The composer, Ken Meazey and his wife joined David and Jean Hastings and those of us at the cathedral for the afternoon service. It was great fun for me to watch Mr. Meazey, who was in the pew just in front of me, nod his head and count the time as he listened to the Fanfare being played on the organ. Afterward, I overheard Mr. Meazey say to Mr. Dunnett that he had written the song to be played by four trumpets and had wondered how David would play it on the organ. He was quite pleased with the rendition. We all enjoyed our first event.

Afterwards, a tea was held at the Maids Head Hotel for those who have come to be known as Base Contacts and other friends who have supported the veterans and their memorials in many ways. It was a wonderful time for our attendees to meet those who would be taking them to the various air bases and to thank others who have been an ongoing support group.

On Monday morning, we boarded a bus for the Cambridge American Cemetery. Trust Governor Andrew Hawker led us to our reserved seats. Placement was nearest the dignitary dais so we all could see and hear. When it came time for the 104 wreaths to be laid at the Wall of the Missing, our veterans participated. Some laid the wreath for Heritage League and some laid a wreath for his own bomb group. This also happened to be the official opening of the new visitors' center that had been five years in development. It is a lovely addition to the grounds. The Duxford American Air Museum, just a few miles away, allowed our coach to go through a staff gate in order to drive up very near the building so that the walk would be much, much shorter for the veterans. Our group had a chance to enjoy lunch



Signing in. Convention Chair Irene Hurmer beams as marvelous reunion trip becomes real! Photo: Evan Thomas.

amid the planes once used by the American military. A B-24 Liberator, fighters, and many other planes are part of the exhibit. A B-17 took off from the airfield as we all went out to watch. At the special invitation of Sir John White, our coach took almost 50 of us to Salle Farm Estate for a Texas barbecue, served in his orange-

ry (to protect us from the rain). That was great fun, the food was delicious, and there was a little time to walk in the lovely gardens.



Beverly Tomb looks on as wonderful host Sir John White welcomes Oliver "Mo" Morris, Francis Cartier (both 453rd vets). Photo: Marybeth Dyer.

Tuesday morning we went to The Forum to visit the Memorial Library. At the end of the annual Heritage League business meeting, Group Captain Richard Middleton, Chair of the Memorial Trust, asked that we go out to the plaza in front of the Forum, hide from the rain under the extended eave, and watch the sky above. Just before noon, as we looked out toward St Peter Mancroft Church, the rain lightened to a mist, a Royal Air Force Typhoon jet dropped below the clouds and gave a fly past to honor and thank our veterans who were among us for a "job well done." It was also in recognition of the fact that we may never have this many WWII vets gathered together at one time in Norwich again. What a special event that Chair Mid-



American Collection. Air Museum at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, houses an incredible collection of beautifully restored principal American USAAF and USAF aircraft. The B-24M here survived war Stateside, but is redone to honor a 392nd ship that made it home from Wendling. John Gilbert escorts Birmingham's son Jim, Nose-gunner father Robert (458th), son Bob, niece Marybeth Dyer and her husband Steve. Photo: Beverly Tomb.

leton was able to arrange! Minutes later, we were given an official welcome by Tim Bishop, Chief Executive of The Forum Trust and Councillor Keith Driver, Lord Mayor of Norwich. A film lasting about ten minutes, especially created for this occasion, was shown. It included clips of Norwich, surrounding

country, and glimpses of life on the air bases during World War II. Delicious finger food, including fresh Norwich asparagus, and drinks were served. It was a time for many



John Gilbert once instructed Princes William and Harry in the use of firearms with permission from their mother, Princess Diana. His American dining companions after ceremonies at St. Paul's, were Chris Clark, Marybeth and Steve Dyer. Photo: Mark Naber.

of us to visit with city officials, Memorial Trust Governors, a Member of Parliament, and others. The British Broadcasting Company asked to interview any veterans in attendance. Later in the afternoon, many went for a boat ride on the Broads. Paul Hindle came along to point out homes along the shore where some of the veterans spent their R&R. Paul had pictures with him of the homes as they looked about 1944. The homes were still very recognizable. Dinner was eaten at a traditional pub, The Fur and Feather Inn.

Wednesday was Base Day. Some of our British friends picked up at the hotel and some of us took minibuses out to a particular base to meet our guide. Each of



Governors Richard Middleton (chair), Andrew Hawker and Tony Harmer listen to professional during tour of world-class facility at Norfolk Record Office, repository for Memorial's 2AD archival holdings. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.

us had a very special experience walking on part of the original runways, listening to stories, and imagining what it was like “back then.” For many, Wednesday was a highlight of the trip and why they had made the long journey from the United States.

On Thursday, those who chose to go to Blickling Estate, the ancestral

home of the Boleyn Family, were treated to private tours of the home and of the RAF museum where planning and training had been conducted during the war as arranged by Angela Taylor. Others attended the spring meeting of the governors of the Memorial Trust where Chairman Middleton announced that a Representative of the Heritage League would have a seat on the board to replace the one vacated by the Second Air Division Association representative when the parent organization disbanded. This, indeed, was a very momentous occasion. Afterwards, a tour of the Norfolk Records Office was given. The archives of the library are kept in this facility, one of the most state of the art in Europe. Later in the afternoon, the Eastern Daily Press sent a reporter to the Maids Head Hotel to interview the veterans. A wonderful article appeared in Friday's edition of the paper. In the evening, our Farewell Banquet included a special happening. Our friend and base contact, John Gilbert, was given permission by his Colonel, to lead a contingent of the Royal Norfolk, Royal Anglian Regiment Association, to Present the Colors for our ceremonies. I believe this was the first time that a British group has performed this service for the Second Air Division Association or the Heritage League. Our special candle lighting ceremony was edited by Secretary Brian Mahoney and Vice-President of Volunteers Chris Clark for the occasion. Chris served as the

Master of Ceremonies. As much as possible one Brit and one American worked as a team to light each of the eight candles. Dinner was enjoyed by convention attendees and guests, awards were presented (the first Heritage League oak leaf cluster to Colin Mann, and Wall of Honor awards to Trust Governor Andrew Hawker and to Trust Librarian

Libby Morgan), good-byes were said as this was the last night of our amazing journey.

Friday morning, we did have our first emergency. One of our group had a spell that necessitated calling an ambulance. We were fortunate to have an EMT in our midst. Tara Carpenter, granddaughter of 453rd veteran Oliver Morris, rushed from her room and stayed until the ambulance arrived. Colin and Alex Mann went to the hospital, stayed until the patient was released, and then drove in to London to the hotel to get the patient settled. We do have guardian angels.

Each November, generally on the Thursday of Veterans Day week, a memorial service is held at St. Paul's Cathedral. Friday, we were off to London to St. Paul's where Peter Chapman, Lay Canon and member of the Chapter of St. Paul's Cathedral coordinated with The Reverend Canon Tricia Hillas, Canon Pastor, and Johanthan Coore, Succentor, to have a memorial service



Moment of weath presentation at Madingley. Photo: Beverly Tomb.



Taps played at Madingley, concluding Memorial Day ceremony. 537 of the marked graves hold 2AD dead; nearly 6800 from the 'Liberator Division' paid the full price for freedom in WWII. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.

in the American Chapel similar to the one performed in November. The chapel, completed in 1958, houses the Role of Honour, containing the names 28,000 American dead. It was given by President Dwight Eisenhower to Walter Matthews, Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II, the Royal Family, and many other dignitaries in 1951. A program was distributed to those of us present with the prayers to be recited, and the service was conducted by The Very Reverend Dr. David Ison—Dean of St. Paul's and The Reverend Tricia Hillas—Canon Pastor. We were joined by members of the London chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Afterwards, we moved to the Quire for Evensong where a men and boys choir from Germany sang. Dinner at Strada Restaurant afterwards allowed all of us to say good-bye until we meet again.

This was a spectacular week, and could not have happened without help from too many to name. The 2014 Convention Committee wants to again thank Colin Mann for staying up all hours of the night to join in our Skype meetings. For Colin, in Norwich, our meetings started about 1:00 am. That is true dedication to the effort of thanking our veterans and being sure that everyone will want to “Return to Norwich” once again.

Somewhere In England

Story and Photos by Evan Thomas

It's a warm evening and Norwich is a great city to stroll in. I'm making my way over cobbled streets towards Tombland, an ancient quarter and home to a popular collection of restaurants, bars and one wonderful old bookshop. The Heritage League has invited me to their Sunday night reception at the Maids Head. It's a grand old hotel and a stone's throw from the Cathedral where the reunion delegation have attended Evensong. On the lapel of my



Jim Turner's brother-in-law, the late George Finch, served in the 448th at Seething.

jacket, I am wearing a yellow pin badge with a black, diagonal line through the middle. It's a treasured memento from the last reunion I attended at the 448th BG convention in Orlando, Florida.

As I arrive at the hotel, people are gathering in the lobby and there's a small table with some pens, badges and posters. This is reunion merch' (oh,

how I love it!). Marybeth Dyer calls for everyone to make their way to the function room for the evening to begin and we wander through the lounge area, which is dotted with smart, leather armchairs and chesterfields. It's classy and I like it in here; great for meetings over coffee. Queuing on the stairs, I stood next to Bob Birmingham, a 458th BG veteran wearing his white 'Return to Norwich' baseball cap. I ask him if he ever stayed in



458th Bob Birmingham looking great.

this hotel during the war (he didn't). I interviewed King Shultz Jr. (448th BG) back in 2007 and he talked about having a much-needed soak in a large, tin bath at the Maids Head whilst on leave from base duties. And now, here we are—incredible.

At the top of the stairs, they are registering



New Trust Chair Richard Middleton chats with Vicki Brooks Warning as her husband Kurt (back to us) and Trust Librarian Libby Morgan look on during the opening reception.

names and handing out badges. I start to explain that I'm a late addition to the list and maybe I don't have one but, turns out, I do! Irene Hurner is taking photos of everyone as they enter the reception room. I actually thought about not bringing my camera out tonight (idiot!) but saw sense. So, I get a couple of shots of Irene before she gets me. Once inside I make for the bar (priorities) and bump into Fred Squires from the 389th BG Museum and marvel at his collection of pin badges. I find a spot at a table with Pat and Ron Everson and Jim and Nancy Turner of Seething Control Tower fame. After some feedback issues (and a call for a radio operator) League President, Beverly Baynes Tomb, takes to the microphone to officially welcome everyone. She reads a short invocation by Patrick O'Byrne and she's emotional, fighting the lump in her throat. Then we all eat and talk and I realise I have a great opportunity to document the event. I move around taking photos, meeting people and generally having a great time. There is excitement in the room as American visitors and British guides discuss the base visits planned for the coming week. My highlight is a twenty-minute chat with B-24 veteran Burton Madison (see the link below).

As the evening draws to a close and guests drift away, I grab my mementos and say thank you to the League for inviting me. I head off into Norwich to meet some friends for a drink. Such a special night and I have quite a story to tell.

The photos I took at the event are available on my blog. To view them visit www.happywarriors.co.uk and click on the post 'Life in the Ball Turret with Burton Madison'. evan@happywarriors.co.uk/twitter.com/happywarriors



Larue Carpenter (daughter), and Karen Merrell (daughter) with 453rd vet Oliver 'Mo' Morris..

Among the 8 WWII veterans of the 2nd Air Division who visited Norwich, England over Memorial Day week for the annual meeting of the Heritage League, we discovered that there were 3 graduates of Marquette University! Three Marquetteers. On this trip: L: Robert C. Birmingham (458th), C: Don O'Reilly (44th & 491st), and R: Aaron Boxer (491st), realized they all share the same Alma Mater, Marquette University. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.

Media Coverage of Heritage League Events

Our May and June Heritage League events received some nice media coverage! Click the links below to see the articles.

"A special visit to Norfolk for Second World War veterans" in the Norwich Evening News 24, May 30, 2014, Article by Catherine Morris-Gretton, Photo by Simon Finlay. Link: <http://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/a-special-visit-to-norfolk-for-second-world-war-veterans-1-3621671>

There are 2 corrections to above article: (1) There were 8 veterans on our trip; (2) The veteran with four generations was Robert Hall.

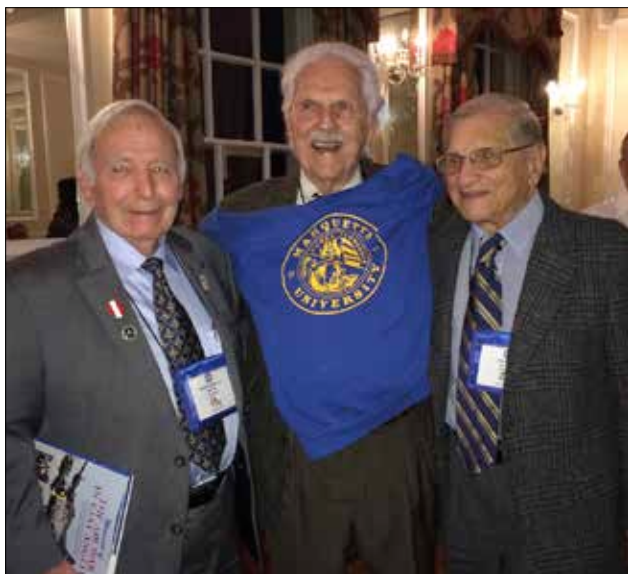
"World Honors D-Day's Fallen Soldiers, 70 Years On" video footage from Fox 11 News / KTTV Los Angeles, June 6, 2014. Link: <http://www.myfoxla.com/story/25711752/world-honors-d-days-fallen-soldiers-70-years-on>

70th Anniversary D-Day Los Angeles June 6, 2014 on Facebook. Created by Peggy Fish Learman, Kelly Learman Browne and Gretchen Learman Burrier Photos of the June 6 event at 94th Aero Squadron in Van Nuys, CA. Link: www.facebook.com/pages/70th-Anniversary-D-Day-Los-Angeles-June-6-2014/164447656949353

Newsletter from the Memorial Library

The 2nd Air Division Memorial Library is publishing a wonderful newsletter. This newsletter has a lot of information on what is going on with people and events at the library. The newsletter is only available through email. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter, please email the Memorial Library: 2admemorial.lib@norfolk.gov.uk

Three Marquette University Grads Among Our 8 WWII Veterans



Looking Back on History

by Deborah Simms-Watson

Since 2007, I have been accompanying my father, Burton Madison, to various engagements concerning World War II. At the tender age of 20, he 453rd vet Burton Madison and daughter Deborah Simms-Watson. Photo: Evan Thomas.

my Air Force and became a ball turret gunner with the 453rd Bomb Group in the 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force (USAAF). He was stationed in Attleborough, England at Old Buckenham Air Base.



Over the years, I have heard so many stories about the 30 missions he flew under the command of his Operations Officer, the famous movie star, Jimmy Stewart. I'm fascinated with the history of the war and the lives of so many brave young men. I realize more and more how very important this war was to the world and especially for Europe.

We have just returned from Norwich, England where we attended another Heritage League Convention in celebration of the anniversary of D-day 70 years ago. Burt is now 90 years old and in very good health for a man his age. He loves to talk about the war and was very excited about traveling to Norwich to visit the 2nd Air Division's Living Memorial Library, and to see several of his old comrades. A group visit to the library allowed everyone to do a little research and ask many questions. At the annual business meeting held by the Heritage League officers, the new Memorial Trust Chairman, Group Captain Richard Middleton announced, that weather permitting, a special fly over by a new fighter plane called "Typhoon" would take place at noon by the Royal Air Force. It was rather doubtful due

to the heavy dark clouds, but while we were browsing through material in the library, we heard the roar of the plane overhead and rushed to the window for a glimpse. A special reception was also held in a section of The Forum where the Memorial Library resides. Here we enjoyed refreshments while being entertained with a slide show dedicated to the 2nd Air Division, 8th Air Force, USAAF. Later on, several of the veterans were interviewed by the BBC in a quiet room of the library.

A total of 104 Floral Tributes were presented and laid along the Wall of the Missing. There were addresses by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Cambridge, Mr. Hugh Duberly, also Secretary, American Battle Monument Commission, The Honorable Max Cleland,



Return to base. 453rd vet Burton Madison back at USAAF Air Station #144, Old Buckenham. The SE end of the main runway, extended, is still in use; one end is at the crossing with the runway that ran to the NW from this 'x.' Original concrete runway beyond is retained for agricultural storage. Most runways were broken up as fill for highway construction since the war. Photo: Deborah Simms-Watson.

and Chairman, American Battle Monuments Commission, General Merrill McPeak. Both the British and the United States National Anthems were played following the Posting of Colors, which was escorted by a gentleman playing bagpipes in full costume. Everyone was encouraged to stop by the new visitor's center where displays, films and artifacts reside that serve to tell the stories of all branches of the US Armed Forces in Britain during World War II.

I believe the highlight of our trip, especially for me, was seeing Burt step foot one more time on the

grounds of Old Buckenham Air Base. It would be his first time back since he left the war in 1945. Only a small section of the original landing strip remains and the control tower has been torn down. However, during an outing the Heritage League attendees made to Blickling Estate, I was able to see a picture of the original tower. To my amazement, I also found on display “chaff”, a silver type tinsel, which Burt was called upon to eject into the air during missions to confuse the enemy’s radar detection. Burt often talked about chaff in his stories of the war, saying it was like Christmas tinsel. Surprisingly, it was much larger than what I had imagined, about an inch wide and in clusters of various lengths.

In London, the veterans were honored with a special ceremony in St. Paul’s Cathedral. There is a section in the back of the Cathedral, which during the war, was the only part that had been hit by a bomb. This part of the church was rebuilt in 1958 with money saved by the British people and not funded at all by the government. There is an inscription in the floor that reads, “To The American Dead of the Second World War From the People of Britain.” There are 3 beautiful stained glass windows, which represent: service, sacrifice and the reward of heaven. These windows contain the only stained glass in the entire Cathedral, due to a bomb blast on April 17, 1941 that blew out all of the windows and buckled the great west door. All windows were replaced with clear glass. Under the center window, carved in wood, is an American Eagle. A book containing the 28,000 names of fallen soldiers, inaugurated by the Queen, is encased in glass and each day throughout the year a page is turned. The Jewish troops listed are thanked in Hebrew script. On the side of the case it reads, “To the Glory of God in Memory of the Overseas Members of the Commonwealth and Empire who gave their lives in WAR 1914-1918 RIP 1939-1945.” We also learned that the main dome in St. Paul’s is 365 feet tall representing each day of the year.

Our visit to St. Paul’s Cathedral ended with Choral Evensong performed by a choir from Germany. The singing was magnificent! This marked the end of the weeklong Heritage League Convention honoring the veterans. A most educational and enjoyable trip, and I look forward to another healthy year with my father and future Heritage League Reunions.



American Chapel, within St. Paul’s, London. Photo: Deborah Simms-Watson



Hethel host and guide Fred Squires and Colin Mann—stalwart in keeping the American Invasion well remembered in East Anglia. Photo: Evan Thomas.



Attlebridge base guide Paul Hindle shows found .50 calibre round to Vicki and Kurt Warning. Photo: Beverly Tomb.

P.O.V. of a First Timer

by Chris Clark

If the start of my trip to England was an indication of things to come, then I was in for a real good time. Flying at 38,000 feet, I could look back at North America and see the sun set. While looking east toward Europe, I saw the sun coming up. I felt like a space traveler.

Landing at Norwich International Airport, I started by landing at what was Horsham St. Faith in WWII. Our hotel, the Maid’s Head, located in Tombland, was founded in 1287. As a wood finisher and amateur historian, England is like putting candy in front of a kid. Everywhere you look things are older than America.

On the first full day, Sunday May 25, past Heritage League presidents Irene Hurner and Marybeth Dyer invited me to church. It was built only 100 years ago, but made to look almost 900 years old. Then we had Evensong at the Norwich Cathedral, which is about 900 years old. I am a grown man, and I am not ashamed to admit that I was moved to tears! It was as if I was in Heaven because of the choir and the ambiance. As our own British hosts would say, “Brilliant, Brilliant!”

Thanks to Irene and Marybeth, who got me into church two times in one day, and the walls stood. We then had a reception for all of our English base hosts. The fact that so many people with interest in the 2nd Air Division met at once is incredible. The meeting of all the different bomb groups was a real treat. All of us had the chance to put a name to a face. Most important, information on the 2nd Air Division was exchanged.

On Monday, May 26, our group was fortunate enough to be on time for the wreath laying ceremony at Cambridge American Cemetery at Madingly (This



Chris Clark holds a picture of his uncle, S/ Sgt Charles Franklin Clark. Staff at the Halesworth 489th BG Museum presented Chris and 489th crew chief Robert Hall each with a mounted piece of the runway; brass plaque indicates Halesworth runway, 1944. Photo: Marjorie Shiers.

is what I invited Her Majesty to attend, see letter and pictures at www.489th-bomb-group-museum.org then click Memorial Day). There were 104 wreaths laid by 104 civilians given over at one time by 104 service personnel. It was a sight I will never forget. We then went to Duxford Imperial War Museum. I re-



Super homerun. By departing from the former Horsham St. Faith field of the 458th, now the Norwich International Airport, Chris Clark managed to take in fully five of the 15 2AD air stations in his short, memorable first trip to England. Airport proudly displays art of Mike Bailey and other reminders of its rich history. Photo: Colin Mann.

ally enjoyed seeing the B-24. From there we went to a BBQ dinner at Salle Farm Estate of Sir John White. I will thank Sir John White and his staff once again for their hospitality.

From scratch, the staff made some of the best spread of food that I had in England. The wine that Sir John White personally dispensed from his crystal decanter was wonderful. The people and the ambiance of the BBQ was truly a memorable event. Thank you to the President Beverly Tomb for arranging this lovely outing.

Tuesday, May 27, was another busy day. First, at the forum, we toured the jewel of the 2nd Air Division Living Memorial, The Memorial Library. Libby and her staff deserved and were given a huge round of applause. Most people then went to the Broads for a boat ride. All the houses were beautiful and very well built. The wild-

life and waterfowl was varied and beautiful. Then we took a bus ride to the Fur and Feather Inn. The choice of brewed on premises ale and nog was impressive. The food was delicious. Thank you to Earl Wassom for writing the dinner prayer that I read before eating.

Wednesday, May 28—Base Day—This is what the trip to England was all about. I had a hard choice to make, as my uncle S/Sgt Charles F. Clark flew 37 missions from Halesworth and 10 out of Shipdham for the 44th. Colin Mann provided a solution. On the first Saturday, Colin said let's go to Mileham Castle and Shipdham, so I could go to Halesworth on Base Day. We met as a group, the family of ground crew chief, Mr. Robert Hall. His plane had over 100 missions, without one abort. Our base hosts at the 489th (Halesworth) were the best. The museum there is one of the best in the 2nd Air Division (info@489th-bomb-group-museum.org)

Thursday, May 29, as a board member, I went to see how the Governors' meeting was conducted, then the banquet. What a nice time. I was honored to be Master of Ceremonies, and co-write the candle lighting ceremony. To see what could be the last crews' worth of real WWII B-24 men on UK soil, is truly an unforgettable sight. Nobody wanted this night to end.

Friday, May 30, trip to London and St. Paul's. Again, an Evensong to remember. The HL was announced to the Cathedral audience, and again a service in the most beautiful house of worship I have ever been in, moved me to tears. After this service, we headed to Strada's for a great dinner and good-byes. I am so happy

I went. The English were complete hosts. From the taxi drivers, hotel employees, and to all of the base hosts, a sincere thank you.

And special thanks to Irene Hurner, Marybeth Dyer, Colin & Alex Mann, without whom the reunion would not have been such a success.

I want to say something I thought about today. Years ago, 489th author and historian Charles H. Freudenthal told me not to worry about statistics and facts, but get the story, my uncle's story and experiences. All I did was talk about my visit. Let me compare his and mine. I went by modern jet, Uncle Frank went by boat with 7,033 onboard the USS Wakefield. He was the one of ten on his crew that went by boat; ground crew needed his place to work on the B-24s. I had a pillow and was served cognac on my trip. I did not have to worry about German U-boats sinking my ship! I did not have the joy of traveling with 7,032 other humans on my trip to Europe. When the USS Wakefield docked in England they were met by the US Red Cross, coffee, and donuts. I traveled in peace time, not flying 47 missions during the most important conflicts in the history of mankind! So, Mr. Freudenthal, when at age 98, your lesson to me all those years ago (1992) did sink in a little. Thank you and all the men and women of not only the 2nd Air Division, but of the entire allied effort. You not only saved the world as we know it, but spent the next 70 years building the Free World we live in today.

Chris Clark, V.P. of Volunteers,
Nephew of S/Sgt Charles Franklin Clark



Annual Meeting presenters. Back row: Martin Tease, Memorial Library American Scholar; Andrew Hawker, 2AD Memorial Trust Vice-Chairman; Christopher Clark, Heritage League VP of Volunteers; Richard Middleton, 2AD Memorial Trust Chairman; David Cain, Eighth in the East project manager; Sue Risley, Heritage League Treasurer; Matthew Martin, 2AD Memorial Trust Past Chairman. Front: Marybeth Dyer, Heritage League Membership VP; Beverly Tomb, Heritage League President; Becky Avila, Memorial Library American Scholar; Libby Morgan, Memorial Trust Librarian. Photo: Art Peterson.

70th Anniversary D-Day Los Angeles

by Peggy Learman

The 2nd Air Division (California) Reunion now under the banner of the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF), celebrated the 70th Anniversary of D-Day: Los Angeles on Friday, June 6th 2014 at the 94th Aero Squadron Restaurant in Van Nuys. All Veterans of WWII were also invited. Fox 11 News arrived at 5:00 AM to start interviewing the veterans, airing every thirty minutes through the noon, late afternoon and evening broadcasts. Other live media outlets included, KABC Radio and CNN with advance press distributed across the country through dozens of media outlets.

Some highlights include: Glee star and Master of Ceremonies, Bill A. Jones who sang WWII-era songs accompanied by the music of the 9 Carat Gold Band. Marthe Cohn, French-Jewish WWII Spy and author of *Behind Enemy Lines*, was the Keynote speaker and received a standing ovation. French Consul General, Axel Cruau passionately spoke on why "France Will Never Forget," while Consul for the Consulate General



Major Cohn and Marthe Cohn with French Consul General, Axel Cruau, and Consul for the Consulate General of Canada, Sabrina Yoong, all helped make the event special. Photo: via Peggy Learman.

of Canada, Sabrina Yoong affirmed Canada's contribution on D-Day and their alliance to America. Bill Blair brought along his bombsight, and lit a candle in the Candle Lighting Ceremony in memory of the many heroic sacrifices that were made. Elmo Maiden, always a great supporter of the reunion, brought along his lovely family and a large number of friends from Wings over Wendy's. Gloria Ruiz, our Rosie the Riveter, was a smashing success—she very much resembles the famous poster. Of course, Bob Ruiz, her husband, is her greatest cheerleader. Pam Stevens, daughter of Jack Stevens, was on hand to light a candle and to hear Bob Ruiz read

the "Invocation" written by her Dad. Reviews for the event included "Magical" and "A special memory not to be forgotten." Patrick Byrne declared it "A Home Run!"

Many thanks, Heritage League for your wonderful support for this event and to our other sponsor, Galpin Ford's Jane and Bert Boeckmann.

From the Desk of Mike Simpson

Executive Vice President of the Heritage League

Wow! Here it is—time again for another edition of the Herald. This one comes with great news regarding the future of the Heritage League and our role in continuing the work started by the 2nd Air Division Association so many years ago. During the 2014 reunion and trip to Norwich, the Board of Governors for the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust formally announced that a representative of the Heritage League has been approved as a voting member of the Board. This is a tremendous honor in recognition of the work that the Heritage League is undertaking. The honor of setting the goal for future representatives has gone to Beverly Tomb, our President of the Heritage League. While new to the position as President, there's no doubt of her dedication and drive to see that the works of our parents in establishing this Memorial Trust will be carried out in a befitting manner.

As the new webmaster for the Heritage League website, I've been trying to learn more about website design using HTML a 'language' of commands that allows you to present information over the Internet. Being a novice at this, I've undertaken the use of an authoring program that allows you to simply create a page with the information you want and the tool generates the appropriate HTML commands. The look and feel of the website will be the same and I've ported over all of the functionality of the existing site. Once testing is complete, it will be posted for everyone to use. Where things are done a little differently, a 'tool tip' will appear with instructions for help.

I'm continuing to work on the database for the 445th Bomb Group and its website. With the very able assistance of Brian Mahoney, we have discovered some errors and omissions from the American Battle Monuments Commission East Coast Memorial. During the overseas movement of the 445th in late 1943, one plane and crew were lost approximately 100 miles south of St. Croix in the Caribbean. In looking at the ABMC listings, we found 3 names omitted and 1 with incorrect data. I have contacted the ABMC headquarters and am awaiting their reply.

My Story—2014 NORWICH 2AD CONVENTION

Story by Art Peterson 466th BG (Son of Staff Sgt. Robert E. Peterson, Sr.) All Photos: by or via Art Peterson



Proud 466th 'kids.' Vicki Brooks Warning, Beverly Baynes Tomb and Art Peterson (Gold Star) in air raid shelter at Attlebridge.

months old, and have spent much of my life learning about my Dad from others.

At the 2014 convention in historic and vibrant Norwich England (May 24-30), with the help of conversations with many new friends, vets and their families, and wonderful Brits, I came ever closer to my Dad. We shared many stories of life in WWII, and shed more than a few tears together.



Charming ancient Elm Hill Lane, close to Maids Head, barely hints at its considerable age.

buried or memorialized here, including, from the Second Air Division, 905 in pristinely maintained graves and 537 honored on the Wall Of The Missing. That afternoon we toured the huge Duxford War Museum. Inside displays included a B-24. Outside we saw a B-17 take off and roar away.

That evening we were treated to an English-style barbecue at the very large estate of Sir John White. Excellent food and fine wine were served by the host who regaled us with stories, humor and gratitude for Americans help in the war. Norwich had suffered horrific damage and loss of life during German bombing raids in 1940 and 1941. After the U.S. joined the Allies, Norwich was central to the 2AD, and dozens of bases and thousands of Army Air Force personnel and planes.

The 2AD Memorial Library hosted us Tuesday morning. Libby Morgan, Trust Librarian, and her capable

It looks like just another piece of concrete, but this is a rock of the heart. The small chunk of runway from Attlebridge Air Base brought some tears, but more importantly, it brought me closer to my Dad. He and the rest of the Farrington crew took off from this pavement on April 21, 1945 and never returned.

The B-24 "Black Cat" was the last American bomber shot down over Germany. Nine of the crew, including my Dad, died when the plane was shot down by flak near Regensburg. I was 15



Father and son. Jim and Robert C. Birmingham (458th) enjoy evening on grounds of Sir John White's estate before dinner there.

Our gathering started with Sunday evensong service at 900-year-old Norwich Cathedral, under the 315-ft. spire, second tallest in England. Pristine acoustics showcased the large choir. That evening we welcomed each other in a reception that honored those who have helped the Heritage League through the years. Our home was the 4-star Maid's Head Hotel, oldest in England (Queen Elizabeth I slept there in 1587), a place with a beautiful blend of history, modern accommodations and a friendly, helpful staff.

On Monday we traveled by bus to Cambridge American Cemetery for Memorial Day ceremonies and wreath-laying. A crowd of nearly one thousand attended, but we were escorted to reserved seats upfront. Nearly 9,000 U.S. combatants are



Fish and chips and a smile! Gold Star 466th son Art Peterson at the Parson Woodforde Pub in Weston Longville, near former Attlebridge air base.

modern building, along with government offices, shopping, restaurants and a tourism center. The library is the busiest (most successful) in England.

Later we boarded a boat excursion through "The Broads," a vast recreational waterway. Sites along shore included two houses (now private residences) that were rest homes for the 2AD during the war. Afterward we savored English pub dining at the historic Fur and Feather Inn. Wednesday was an emotional highlight of the week,



Norwich Lord Mayor saw to the official welcome of Heritage League by the City in a midday reception, following our Annual Meeting in The Forum.

staff helped us get a taste of the extensive collection of WWII books and many other memorabilia, including the Roll of Honor. The staff fulfills their mission of "remembering the past and inspiring the future."

Our favorite library adjoins the Norwich Library, both located in The Forum, an ultra-



"Rock of my heart." Art gazes thoughtfully on 466th BG runway from which his father departed, for the last time. His father Robert and crewmates on B-24 Black Cat were killed on April 21, 1945, the last Allied combat aircraft loss in the European Theatre.

as we toured our group bases, thanks to Colin Mann and friends. Most bases have changed greatly over the decades, but local experts like Paul Hindle for the 466th have researched the base, then and now, and brought it back to life. Who would have guessed that bare concrete area was where Glenn Miller's band drew a crowd of 10,000 to celebrate the 100th mission? He also worked with Debbie Smith, site manager for the Bernard Matthews Turkey Company, to arrange access to the runways. England requires tight security for turkey-raising businesses.

Many of us toured the massive and ornate Blickling Estate on Thursday, which served in the past as home to the rich and famous, including Ann Boleyn, one of the wives of Henry VIII, back in the day. In WWII, the mansion and gar-

dens was a secret site for RAF planning and training.

Others in our group attended the Trust Governors meeting and toured the Norfolk Record Office Archives, which includes many 2AD artifacts. .

That evening brought the Farewell Banquet with fine cuisine at the Maid's Head.

On Friday, some of us took a bus to London, for a special service in the American Chapel of St. Paul's Cathedral.

With the help of Paul Hindle, I visited the 389th and 466th museum at Hethel. Led by chairman Fred Squires and Cathy Thomson, volunteers have created and maintain the excellent museum, housed in a replica large Nissen Hut and on surrounding grounds.

During the week, between events, I enjoyed walking through the city center (the Maid's Head is at north edge), a blend of historic lanes and old buildings that have been modernized as stores and restaurants. My quest was to find the perfect scone; to my delight they all tied for first place. The edge goes to Jarr-old's because their price was right (a free one to each of our group).

Preparing to leave, I carefully packed the small chunk of my Dad's runway. That came home with me, and, like the many memories from the convention, it will forever be a cherished part of my life, and all that is apart from the many friendly and knowledgeable people who made our Norwich event warm, educational and fun.



Perfect evening. Entire party was welcomed to Sir John White's lovely estate for Memorial Day supper. VP for Volunteers, reunion committee member, researcher Chris Clark (489th/44th) in red, discourses with Paul Hindle. Photo: Colin Mann.

We appreciate the generous gifts from members inspired by an individual to whom we are all connected. We wish to thank members who have given the Heritage League recent contributions as follows:

FOLDED WINGS		
Alderman, Elmer	March 28, 2014	BG 44 th
Col. Asch, Alfred	December 8, 2013	BG 93 rd
Betts, Bert	May 28, 2014	BG 458 th
Brewster, Myron	January 27, 2013	BG 44 th
Dr. Gibson, Henry	April 12, 2014	BG 446 th
Jones, Robert L.	October 10, 2013	BG 458 th
Lt. Col Koza, Frank	May 31, 2014	BG 92 nd
Lavitt, Edwin	June 24, 2013	BG 44 th
Walker, Chuck	June 16, 2014	BG 445 th
Weaver, Charles	June 24, 2014	BG 489 th

IN HONOR AND MEMORY OF

Stephen Bolcar, *In Memory of* the 24 Airmen who lost their lives coming home to Tibenhem

Jan Jones, *In Memory of* Robert L Jones (SOB-Sweet Old Bob)

Tom Houser, *In Honor of* Nick Radosvich

Karen Cormia, *In Honor of* Francis Birmingham

Clare Vanderbeek, **In Memory of** Arthur H. Vanderbeek

Carmela Russo, *In Memory of* Santo Russo

Merlina Perkins, *In Memory of* Mr. Fay E. Perkins

Dr. Jim Adovasio, *In Memory of* James Arthur Adovasio

Beverly Tomb, *In Memory of* Col. Richard C. Baynes

Vicki and Kurt Warning, *In Honor of* Matthew Martin

Deborah Simms-Watson, *In Honor of* Burton Madison

Harold Burks, *In Memory of* Emil Kendzie (my Pilot)

Frank Koza, *In Memory of* Lt. Col. Frank Koza

From dear friends, *honoring* The Heritage League

In Memory of W.P. Scharrschmidt

Norwich Acknowledgments Warmly Received

One of the many highlights of our important trip was the ability to publicly call out, on their turf three of the Heritage League’s very best friends over many years for their unstinting service to The Trust, The League, the veterans and their families. Here are partial citations of our presentations on the night of the banquet.

Andrew Hawker. “Andrew became a Governor of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust in 2002, and ever since has been an approachable, urbane presence at numerous Stateside reunions, of the Second Air Division Association and the Heritage League, and of individual bomb groups. While eschewing the limelight, he has been thrown into it a few times and calmly, persuasively advocated for collaboration rather than competition, as these outfits find dignified and appropriate ways to commemorate WW II service and sacrifice.


He has served effectively as head of the Trust’s Library Subcommittee, and since 2009 as the Trust Vice-Chair. He has encouraged The League to secure a formal, durable relationship with the Trust and been instrumental in the achievement of the new voting American Seat on their board.

He was the affable and effective liaison to the Friends of the 2AD Memorial, and always has aintained his membership with The Heritage League, among his many active ties to America.

Accepting the definition of a gentleman as one who always makes others comfortable, and noting that Andrew has consistently managed to do so at the level of entire organizations, we are grateful to be associated with him, and humbled to be able to call this consummate gent our dear friend.”



Estimable duo. Irene Hurner, Past League President, 2014 Convention Chair, and Kepner award-ee, is the perfect person to induct long-serving, ever urbane Governor Andrew Hawker into our “Hall of Fame.” Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



The Hall of Fame has 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. 🍀

Libby Morgan. “Since assuming her role as Trust Librarian of the 2nd Air Division Memorial in 2007, Libby has enthusiastically applied herself. Her professionalism has entailed sharing with other information specialists the methods of outreach, reworking both the website and the brochure, and enticing substantial persons as program participants. Library patrons, school groups, educators, researchers, Norfolk satellite libraries, visiting veterans and their families—all have experience firsthand the historical and present-day connections between our countries, through her tireless and inspiring efforts.



Trust Librarian Libby Morgan acknowledges her induction into Heritage League Hall of Fame. Photo: Art Peterson.

Her leadership of the professional staff and guidance of the UEA American Scholars has ramped up the institutional reach, to regional and international visitors, to thousands around the world who visit the attractive website, and into the hearts and minds of East Anglians.

Beyond all this, her thoughtful attention to detail and intelligent sensibility, her considerable nergy and her practical approach, have been freely offered to The Heritage League and allowed us to meaningfully “reach across the Pond.”

Libby’s complete embrace of the honoring and remembering, inherent in the missions of both the Memorial Trust and The League, has earned our profound respect, our deep gratitude, and heartfelt and lasting friendship.”

Colin Mann. “You gained our attention by being the broad-shouldered ‘second gen’ in East Anglia, coming to the aid of our sibling organization, The Friends of the 2nd Air Division Memorial. You earned our gratitude for helping with UK distributions of our Herald newsletter. You earned our lasting esteem by your voluntary help to visiting USAAF veterans and their families, and, with the restoration and operation of some of the more remarkable active memorial sites, The League already saw fit to honor you with the ‘Certificate of Appreciation’ during our 2006 reunion in Savannah, Georgia. We have delighted in our association with you ever since.

But more recently, upon deciding to ‘Return to Norwich,’ as the veterans did so many times, we have called upon you to help with all manner of arrangement and detail, which you have done cheerfully, in a series of long, wee-hours internet committee meetings, showing patience, cheer, creativity, and good sense. Between the meetings, you have scouted out attractions, routed airfield trips, and enlisted and coordinated a team of remarkable airbase guides. Our success on this memorable trip, is your success.

Colin, we are bowled over by your exceptional service, we delight in your continuing friendship, and are inspired by your steadfastness in perpetuating the memory of our veterans’ service and sacrifice.”



Dapper and solid. Colin Mann shows a bit of emotion, having received first-ever League presentation of Certificate of Appreciation with Oak Leaf Cluster. His first, in ‘06, called out his efforts with Friends of the 2AD Memorial and instrumental work in UK distribution of the Herald. This one was for his essential and substantial contribution to Reunion ‘14 success. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.

Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF) Return to Norwich

Story by Olivia Koester

After flying almost all day and all night, we finally landed at the Norwich Airport and I heard my Great Grandpa, Robert Hall, say "The weather looks about the same as the day I left." It had been 70 years since Great-Grandpa left England in November 1944 and this was his first trip back. It was raining super hard and we got soaked going from the plane into the airport where I got my first stamp in my passport!

It took a little while for all of us to get our luggage loaded into two cabs because there were 7 of us, my Great-Grandpa (Robert Hall), Grandma (Karen Koester), two Great-Aunts (Sharon Dobson and Sally Lung), Mom and Dad (Scott and Angela Koester) and me (Olivia Koester). Even though I was super tired and soggy, I was

so excited to be in England for the Heritage League Return to Norwich with Great-Grandpa and my family. The first thing I noticed about the cab was that the driver's seat was on the opposite side of the car and that he drove on the other side of the road. We finally arrived at the Maids Head Hotel, which was nice but very, very old with lots of stairs and winding hallways, kind of like a maze. We went to our rooms to unpack, sleep, and found that rain actually leaked through the zippers of



4 Great Gens. Scott Koester (grandson) encircles his mother Karen Koester, her father Robert Hall (489th vet), and his daughter (the great-granddaughter) Olivia. Photo: Angela Koester.

our luggage and got our clothes a little wet. Thankfully, my jammies were dry!

Later we all went to the Glass House for real English pub food. Grandma, Aunt Sally, Aunt Sharon, and Mom ordered fish and chips with mushy peas, which looked really

gross, like baby food. Great Grandpa ordered fish and

chips too but with regular peas. Dad ordered bangers and mash and I ordered a hot dog and chips. The hot dog turned out to be the biggest hot dog I ever saw! Everyone really liked the food very much, even the mushy peas.

After breakfast the next day, we took a bunch of pictures of all of the family together to remember the trip. We also took a special four generations picture



Very Reverend Dr. David Ison, Dean of St. Paul's Cathedral, beams on WWII veterans Robert Hall, Harvey Naber, Oliver Morrison, Don O'Reilly and Burton Madison. Photo: Olivia Koester.

with just Great-Grandpa, Grandma, Daddy, and me. It was really fun to have four generations there together and it was really nice that Great-Grandpa got to have all three of his daughters there with him, too.

At registration, we met Marybeth Dyer for the first time. She was very nice and gave us all bags with our names on them that had our Heritage League badges, our

daily schedule list, and stuff like that. She gave Great-Grandpa a special white hat with the 2nd Air Division symbol to wear while we were there to show he was a World War II Veteran.

Next, we walked to the Norwich Market and had afternoon tea at Jarrold's. I learned that you have to wait for a while for the tea to cool down before you pour the cream in so the cream does not separate.

After tea, we went to Evensong at the Norwich Cathedral. I was not sure what Evensong would be like, but it was mostly like church at home except the church was a lot bigger and prettier and really, really old.

That night we went to the Heritage League reception where we met the Heritage League members, the other seven World War II Veterans, their families, and friends. I sat with a very nice couple who were from Norwich. During the war when he was a boy, he had soldiers stay with him and his family at his house.

The next day we went to the Cambridge American Cemetery for a Memorial Day Service to honor all veterans and remember the ones that died or went missing. During the service, Great-Grandpa was one of the

wreath presenters and laid beautiful flowers at the Wall of the Missing for the 489th Bomb Group. I was so glad for him that he got to do that because it is a huge honor and I know it meant a lot to him. While Taps played, I looked at all the graves and names on the Wall of the Missing and it made me feel very sad to see so many people gave their lives for their country and did not make it back home to their families.

After the service, we went to the Imperial War Museums Duxford where I saw a real B-24 Liberator like Sac Happy, Great-Grandpa's plane. He was the Crew Chief for it in the 489th Bomb Group in the 845th Bomb Squadron. It was really fun to finally see a B-24 in real life with Great-Grandpa, especially after hearing so much about them.

I was really surprised by how big the B-24 was, how complicated it looked to take care of and fix, and how scary it looked inside. It would have been super scary to fly in the turret ball under the plane! I also tried on a helmet that was so big and heavy it was hard to keep my head up straight.

The next day we went to the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library at The Forum

where Great-Grandpa really liked looking at the books and was happy to find some that he has not read yet. He and some of the other veterans were also interviewed by the BBC. I got to design and color my own assembly plane. I made it very colorful so all of the planes that needed to follow it could see it.

Wednesday we went to the Halesworth (Holton) Air Field, Station 365, where Great-Grandpa was stationed during the war. Great-Grandpa looked so excited to be there. First, we went into the Memorial Museum and met Marjorie and Bob Shiers, Pam and Sid Wilby, Paddy Cox, and Buzz, Richard Prymor, and others who talked with us about the museum and showed us maps and pictures of what the airfield looked like during the war. Great-Grandpa showed us where his hardstand was and explained how the planes

moved around to keep from crashing into each other, which seemed really complicated. It was really interesting to see the plane parts and all of the uniforms, pictures, papers, and different things like a wedding dress made from a parachute people donated to the museum. There was even a big display with the Collection of Clifford Wayne Anderson, who was the pilot of the crew that flew Great-Grandpa's plane. Great-Grandpa was very proud to tell us that they were the first crew out of the 489th to fly 32 missions without injury or loss of life. Great-Grandpa also signed the wall in the museum, laid a wreath at the 489th Bomb Group Memorial outside, and was given a piece of the runway to take home with him. After lunch at the Triple Plea, we drove



Shine on. Olivia Koester, aided by her grandmother Karen and Alex Geldard light the candle representing the Future of the ongoing relationship between East Anglians and American Second Air Division families. Photo: Angela Koester.

around the edges of the airfield. Marjorie, Pam, and Sid pointed out where all of the different building used to be. It was a really special day for Great-Grandpa with happy and sad parts.

That night we went to the Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division (USAFF) Return to Norwich Farewell Banquet. The Candle Lighting Ceremony was the most special part for me because I was asked to light a candle with some of my family and other guests. Great-Grandpa and Don O'Reilly lit a candle representing the past. Daddy and Libby Morgan lit a candle representing the present, and I lit a candle with Alex Mann representing the future. I was excited but kind of scared too and really nervous, so I asked Grandma to come with me.

On our last day we went to London for a very special service at the American Chapel in St. Paul's Ca-

thedral. The Chapel was built to honor the American Service Members that died in World War II in the United Kingdom right where a bomb was dropped through the roof, but this did not explode. One of the Priests, who was a little boy during the war and was at school by the church when the bombs dropped, told us how scary it was and thanked all of the Veterans for all of their help.

My trip was amazing! Thank you Heritage League for making it so special. I learned a lot and I can hardly wait to go to the reunion next year with Great-Grandpa.



Great Press! Robert Hall (489th), BBC Radio interviewer, Don O'Reilly (44th/491th), 'Mo' Morris (453rd), Burton Madison (453rd). Photo: Olivia Koester.

HL Memorial Day Flowers: Making It More Personal

by Brian Mahoney Photos: ABMC

If you ever get to visit Ardennes or Henri-Chapelle (in Belgium), the North African Cemetery (in Tunisia), Rhone, Epinal, Lorraine or Brittany (in France), Sicily-Rome (in Italy), or the other overseas cemeteries mentioned in this article, be aware of something that makes them very, very different from other cemeteries, even one as hallowed as Arlington National Cemetery.

Every single soul buried in these cemeteries, every single person commemorated in them as missing, died in combat, paying the ul-

timate price in service to our country and its principles. None died a natural death. Our surviving vets all resist being called 'hero,' but all agree: these are the heroes.

A new first: on Memorial Day 2014—and D-Day, for Normandy—The Heritage League presented flowers for the Walls of the Missing at all 12 of the overseas cemeteries holding the fallen, or commemorating the missing, of the 2nd Air Division of WW II. The program is now directly supported by membership contributions, thanks to a program envisioned by VP for Vol-



Epinal First visible name above our floral spray is "one of ours," 389th BG Sgt Charles R. Marshall, KIA 21-Jul-44. From his group at least 4 others KIA that day, and at least 14 more from the 2AD (453rd BG, 446th and 491st also having men in the ground or on Walls of the missing at our overseas cemeteries.) The 'rosette' near Marshall's name cues us that his remains have since been positively identified and interred with full honors. (A Google search on "Charles R. Marshall WWII" led to this: http://www.dtic.mil/dpmo/news/news_releases/2013/release_marshall.pdf)

unteers, Chris Clark.

In Holland, our new friend, Jan de Wilde, who I met on the USAAF forums website and through our joint membership in the Missing Allied Air Crew Research Team (M.A.A.C.R.T.), graciously offered to be our personal representative in the moving ceremony at Margraten.

In Cambridge, England, our reunion party of nearly 60 had reserved seats at Madingley Cemetery, as the 8 veterans on hand laid our wreath at the Wall listing 905 2AD Missing, overlooking marked graves of another 537 from the same division, which comprised the 14 B-24 groups. One of the veterans was so moved by this privilege, he pulled aside one of our officers (his niece!) and complimented Marybeth on her 'pull.' Bob Birmingham, I hope you understand how much it meant *to all of us*, in the descendant ranks, that you were able to

do this; *we were privileged* to make it happen!

In Arlington, I personally walked a route connecting a dozen Second Air Division combatants and leaders, ranging from Col. Al Ash to Sgt. Earl Zimmermann, including Beverly Tomb's late father Col. Richard Baynes, 14th wing CO Gen. Leon Johnson, and 8th AF CO General Jimmy Doolittle. The generosity of the Memorial Day Flowers Association (<http://www.memorialdayflowers.org/>) allowed placing of individual roses on these and thousands of other stones in a beautifully groomed, very well attended cemetery.

This year, we asked American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) representatives to directly email the digital pictures of our decorations, instead of printouts that are impossible to present in the *Herald*. A few have special stories to tell.



Margraten Partial info at very top edge is of SSgt. Harold E. Borgens, KIA 21-Jun-44. Obscured by the flowers is the name of his 389th BG/567th BS squadron mate (possible crewmate) SSGT Hugh Boynton. The very next name is also a 2AD hero, SGT Michael Bozich, 701st BS/445th BG, KIA 20-Mar-45. He was one of the 12 aboard Capt. John W. Barker's plane, all KIA that day, all commemorated on this same wall. All told, 277 2AD men are commemorated at Margraten as Missing. Thirteen of these bear the bronze rosette indicating that they have been recovered, positively identified, and interred with full honors. All of these cases were solved by the miraculous hard work of Enrico Schwartz and his Missing Allied Air Crew Research Team (M.A.A.C.R.T.)

Cambridge Wreath presented by veterans in our reunion party at Madingley Cemetery on Memorial Day. Last two names behind each were 2AD fliers, each have 8 squadron mates on the Wall lost with them. Irving Pohl of the 445th GB (705th BS) died July 11, 1944; Armand W. Pohle and comrades in the 785th BS in the 466th BG, were lost on April 5th, 1945.

North Africa SSgt. Michael J. Reilly KIA 19-Jan-43, was in the 93rd BG ("Ted's Traveling Circus"), on its first detail to Mediterranean duties from England.

Closing Banquet—Candle Lighting Ceremony

Candle lighting ceremonies of The Second Air Division Association and The 8th Air Force Historical Society have long inspired us. The Heritage League innovated its first when we had our initial stand alone convention in Savannah in 2006. We modified it to suit our meeting with the 8th Air Force Historical Society in 2013 in the city of Savannah, knowing that the Second Air Division Association was no longer around to perform this solemn ceremony. Missing them, bearing their mantle, we are back home, nearly as much as they were, in Norwich. We have again modified The Candle Lighting Ceremony to suit the historical significance of this special time and place of this very moment, shared with our greatest friends and allies.

The *FIRST* candle is lit for the British and American relationship of the PAST, welded together in the crucible of WWII on this very sacred ground. Lighting this candle, are American veteran Oliver Morris and Englishman Sir John White.

The *SECOND* candle is lit for the British and American relationship TODAY, represented by each of us in attendance here, whether combatant, witness, or proud descendant. It solemnly celebrates the newest formal relationship between the 2nd Air Division Memorial, in England, and the legacy descendants in America, of those whose service and sacrifices are memorialized. Lighting this candle are American Scott Koester, grandson of veteran Robert Hall, and Englishwoman Libby Morgan, 2AD Trust Librarian.

The *THIRD* candle is lit for the British and American relationship of the FUTURE, one when the long-surviving veterans are gone, even when those of us who have been graced to hear their stories from them, are also gone.... But the perpetual missions of The Memorial Trust and the Heritage League together maintain the valiant legacy of the Yankee airmen who fought from British soil. Lighting this candle, are 9-year-old American Olivia Koester and Englishwoman Alex Geldard. (see photo pg. 19.)

The *FOURTH* candle is lit for the nearly 6800 listed in the Second Air Division Roll of Honor, some at final rest with comrades in a Madingley field, some at home in American ground, and 1469 of whom lie in graves unknown. Lighting this candle are American veterans Bob Birmingham, Sr., nose gunner in the 458th BG, and Richard Middleton, British chairman of the 2AD Memorial Trust.

The *FIFTH* candle is lit for all who served those on the home front, on both sides of The Pond, especially the families of the warriors and heroes. Lighting this candle, are American Sue Risley, Heritage League treasurer, and Englishman Andrew Hawker, vice-chairman of the 2AD Memorial Trust.

The *SIXTH* candle is lit for our British memory keepers. Some rode



FOURTH American vet Bob Birmingham, Sr. and Trust Governor Richard Middleton light the candle remembering the nearly 6800 in the Second Air Division Roll of Honor.



SIXTH. Colin Mann and John Gilbert light the candle representing the Memory Keepers in England. All Photos: Beverly Tombs.



EIGHTH Gold Star sons Art Peterson and Ralph Winter. light the final candle, for all who lost their father while serving the 2nd Air Division in WWII.

out to their local airfield, and hung their heads over the fence, admiring Americans 5 or 10 years older. Not only have they never forgotten, they have built and maintained markers, conducted somber ceremonies, and established durable arrangements to perpetuate the memory. They, too, are now leaving us, and shall not be forgotten. Lighting this candle, are British friends John Gilbert and Colin Mann.

The *SEVENTH* candle is for those seven on the ground behind each one who served on a combat plane. Without the mechanic, the medic, the mess hall worker, the motor pool driver, and bomb handler, the mission could not have been flown. Lighting this candle, are veterans Donald O'Reilly, military police with the 44th and 491st BGs, and Robert Hall, crew chief with the 489th BG.

The *EIGHTH* and FINAL CANDLE is for all Gold Stars, those who lost spouse or parent to enemy action, taking the hit for all of us, even now, seventy years later. Lighting this are Gold Star sons Arthur Peterson and Ralph Winter.

Norwich Photo Album Heritage League goes Home

Monumental moment. Sons Jim (left) and Bob Birmingham flank their father, 458th veteran Robert C. Birmingham at what is now Norwich International Airport. When he took off on runway behind, in January, 1945, he thought he was headed to bomb an enemy target, but he spent that night and many more as an Internee in neutral Sweden. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.

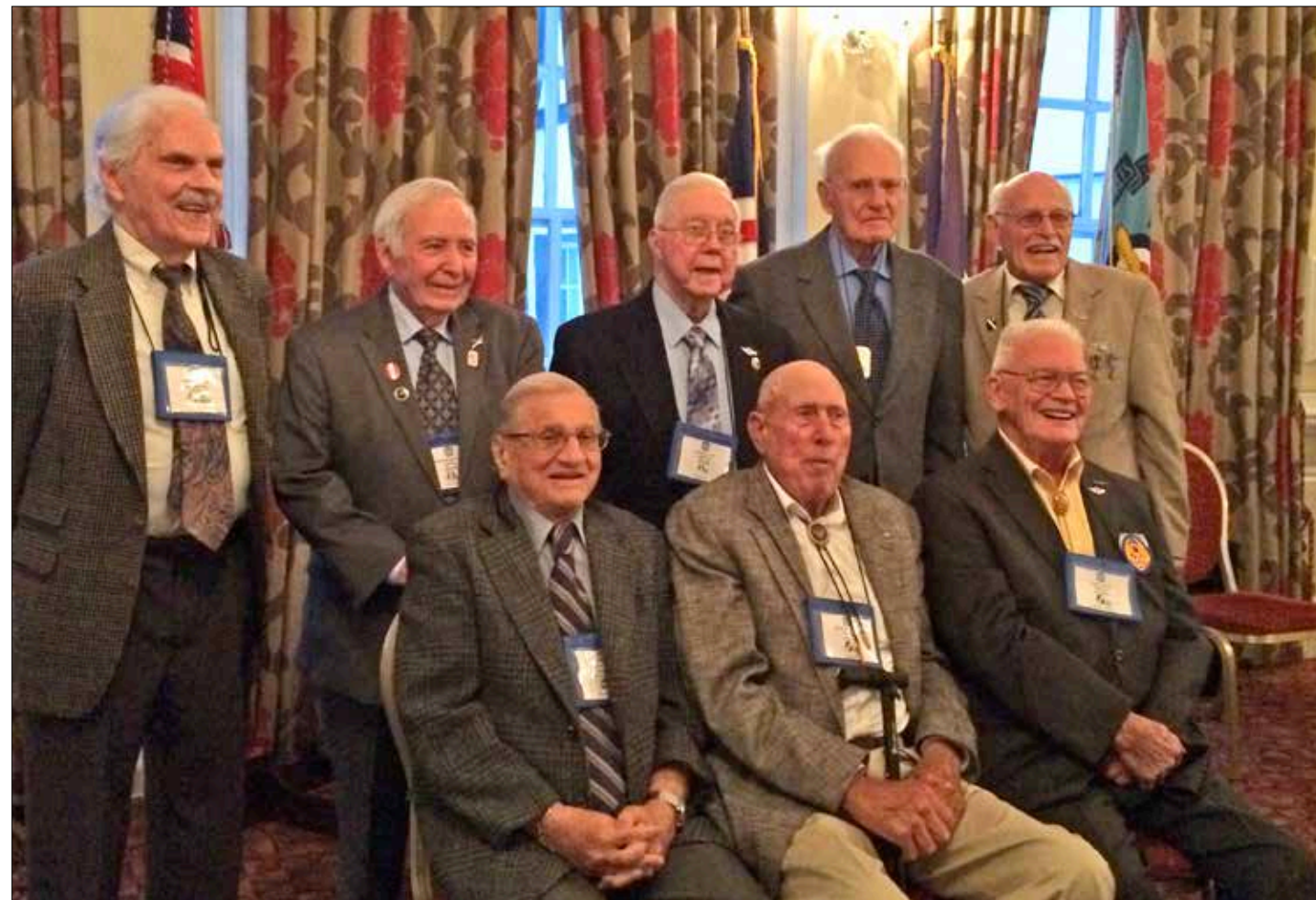


Alex Geldard, Steve Dyer, Chris Clark, Doug Tomb, Irene Hurner, Dave Hart and Jacquie Gurney round out warm dinner party at Gurney's lovely Norfolk home. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



Gracious treat. The Gurneys had Heritage executives and special guests to their home for a fine dinner, at two tables. Sue Risley, Tom Mello, Beverly Tomb, host and long-serving Trust Governor, David Gurney, Colin Mann, Barbara Mello. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.





Last Hurrah. Eight hale-and-hearty veterans of the Second Air Division, in Norwich together, nearly 70 years after it all ended—the heart and soul of our best reunion, ever. Standing: Don O'Reilly, Bob Birmingham, Robert Hall, Harvey Naber, Burton Madison. Seated: Aaron Boxer, "Mo" Morris, and Francis Cartier. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



Beverly Tomb, Irene Hurner and her sister Barbara Mello relaxing in the comfortable country home of David and Jacquie Gurney. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



Left to right: Solo vet Francis Cartier, Olivia, Martha Pederesen, Colin, Libby, Jim Snyder. Photo: Beverly Tomb.



Darrel Lowell, President of the 8AFHS, their Brit Rep Gordon Richards, David Crow, British member of 8thAFHS, Beverly Tomb, Doug Tomb. Photo: via Beverly Tomb.



Closeburn was used by 466th airmen on R&R. Photo: Beverly Tomb.



Managing to stay dry in the warm company of a drizzly Norfolk day. Art Peterson, Olivia Koester, Scott Koester and Angela Koester, Doug Tomb. Photo: Beverly Tomb.



Martin Tease and Becky Avila were the current Memorial Library American Scholars, A University of East Anglia (UEA) program that has successfully supplanted the Fulbright Scholar program of the past. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.

Reunion rendezvous. 466th daughters Beverly Baynes Tomb and Vicki Brooks Warning, with Kurt Warning, rode up to Norwich together on train from London. Vicki served 10 years as our Representative to the Trust Governors, and Beverly will be our first Heritage League appointed voting American Governor. Photo: Doug Tomb..



Dave Hart and Sue Risley, daughter of the late J. Audley Risley of the 446th stand below his tail colors at the memorial library. Photo: via Sue Risley.



Ever the host! Colin Mann offers a fine personal greeting at Maids Head Hotel for arriving Americans. Photo: Beverly Tomb.



Three generations of Gwen Rutterford's family have hosted 466th friends on base day. Her family has been on this site for 500 years. Photo: Beverly Tomb.



The colors are presented at the Memorial Day ceremony at Cambridge American Cemetery. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



Return to base. Swedish internee, 752nd Bomb Squadron vet Bob Birmingham at his 458th BG on 'Base Day' (May 28, 2014). Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



Hearts and Minds. Cambridge Wall of Missing lists 5,127, of whom 905 were connected with the Second Air Division. Chris Clark, VP for Volunteers (489th/44th) is at right, and Colin Mann, our 'Mann on the Ground' for this convention, hold the Heritage League wreath. Just between their clear heads and heavy hearts, we find six of our own. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



Outgoing Trust Chair Matthew Martin pleased with gift presentation—"The Architecture of Diplomacy"—from a grateful Heritage League. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



Bob Birmingham (left) and his brother Jim, flank veteran Robert C. Birmingham (458th) and Lord Mayor Councillor Keith Driver of Norwich during City's lunchtime reception for Heritage League. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



Robert Hall, Robert C. Birmingham, 'Mo' Morris and Burton Madison interviewed by Eastern Daily Press reporter at hotel. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



Added treat. Our party did not know that the wonderfully restored and maintained B-17 Sally B would go for a flight shortly after their arrival at Imperial War Museum/Duxford. Photo: Art Peterson.



Veteran Robert Hall aided by grandson Scott Koester with daughters, Karen Koester, Sally Lung and Sharon Dobson head out to runway as B-17 runs up engines. Doug Tomb at left was ready for the typical Cambridgeshire weather. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



Never forget. Heritage League party, foreground, gazes across Reflecting Pool to Wall of the Missing during Memorial Day ceremonies, including presentation of the Heritage League wreath by 8 veterans of the Second Air Division, in the party. 104 wreaths were presented by kindred organizations. Photo: Marybeth Dyer.



Unique event, special ceremony. John Gilbert and Royal Anglian Regiment color guard colleagues post regimental flag and 'colors' of both US and UK together, for Final Banquet, Thursday, May 29th. Left Photo: Beverly Tomb. Right Photo: Marybeth Dyer.

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