



HERITAGE HERALD

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THERE WILL ALWAYS BE AN ENGLAND

by Art Peterson

WWII had brought them together around Norwich England, to serve our nation in wartime. In spring 2014, the Heritage League of the Second Air Division brought them back to Norwich for a week of renewed friendship, rekindling old memories, and honors from families and Brit friends.

Our vets joined us in touring their former air bases, sightseeing at England's historic treasures, and being welcomed at Norwich's Second Air Division Memorial Library.

Eight 2AD vets attended: Bob Birmingham, Aaron Boxer, Francis Cartier, Robert Hall, Burton Madison, Oliver "Mo" Morris, Harvey Naber and Don O'Reilly. Three shared their good times from the reunion.

BOB BIRMINGHAM

Seeing a runway at the former Horsham St. Faith air base (now Norwich International Airport), Birmingham said "I could visualize our B-24 rumbling down the runway with a full load of bombs, wondering if we would get off the ground or take out the pub at the end of the runway."

Although he hadn't previously met the other seven vets at Norwich 2014, "the connection was still there," he said, "Especially when I found out that three of us were alumni of Marquette University. What are the odds?"

In the war, Birmingham had been a nose gunner in the Roger Hicks crew of the 458th BG. "We were shot down Jan. 17, 1945, but made it to Sweden, where we were interned until the end of the war." The 2AD Memorial Library had a special find, "I was

pleased to find the library in full operation and even more pleased they quickly produced a book I requested, "Red Dog," written in Swedish, about our last mission."

During the week, he also was pleased "to see the people of Norwich are the same friendly and grateful people that were there in 1944. I was amazed they were still thanking us for saving their country from the Germans." He sends special thanks to "our English friends, John Gilbert, Colin Mann and Mike Bailey, who took us around and responded to our every need. The reunion was a very uplifting experience."

He had attended the reunion, not just for himself, but also "to represent my brother Frank, who couldn't attend. We served together in the 458th, he was with the Everett crew that put in 32 missions."

After Norwich, Birmingham and his son went to Sweden. "That was equally stimulating since our plane crash had become part of Swedish history, and we were treated like returning sons."

Birmingham lives in Greendale WI.

FRANCIS CARTIER

Norwich nostalgia for Cartier, who had been a bombardier, was close to the Maids Head Hotel, where the reunion was based. "About 20 steps away were two bigger-than-life statues flanking the entrance to the Samson and Hercules, a very popular WWII dance hall." They marked a dressing down for him during the war. Although the building is now vacant, the memory is lasting.

One night at "the Muscle Club, as we called it, I spotted a charming lady that I had danced with at



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to this issue of the Heritage Herald!



In addition to many wonderful memories lingering from our Annual Heritage League (HL) Reunion/Convention in Norwich, England over Memorial Day week 2014, I am now savoring memories of a second trip to Norwich in November for a very busy week, including the Annual General Meeting of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust Governors.

As the Heritage League Trust Governor, I was deeply honored to place the 2nd Air Division wreath at the Norwich War Memorial in front of the City Hall on Remembrance Sunday. (photo pg. 3) The wreath's inscription read, "IN MEMORY OF 6,881 MEN OF THE 2nd AIR DIVISION WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN WWII." This was the first time that the wreath was not placed by a WWII veteran. And while it's sad that our precious veterans are leaving us, it highlights the importance of the Heritage League. Our mission to honor and remember all of our 2nd Air Division veterans, and to keep the history of their service alive for generations to

come is more and more important.

Please plan to join us for our 2015 Heritage Reunion/Convention in Omaha, Nebraska on October 13-18, 2015. Our meetings will be held in conjunction with the 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion, with more details to come.

If you are on Facebook, look for our new Facebook page "Heritage League of the Second Air Division—USAAF" and "Like" the page to get updates in your News Feed. That Page is administered by members of the executive committee of the Heritage League and is the Facebook presence of our organization. There are also many Facebook Groups that discuss WWII, B-24, airfield memorials, and the 2nd Air Division. None of those groups are affiliated with the Heritage League, but they may also be of interest to those on Facebook.

Our public Heritage League website at <http://www.heritageleague.org> is a great place to explore excellent content. It is maintained by our Executive Vice-President, Mike Simpson.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Heritage League, fill out the "Contact Us" form on our website, and include your skills and area of interest.

If you buy things on Amazon.com, you can contribute to the Heritage League by selecting us as your charity of choice on Amazon Smile at <https://smile.amazon.com>

I look forward to seeing you in Omaha this October for our Heritage League Annual Meeting!

Beverly Baynes Tomb, President, Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division (USAAF), Governor, 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust.



HL President Beverly Tomb (right) lays the wreath for the 2nd Air Division on Remembrance Day 2014 at the Norwich War Memorial.

2015 Reunion: Heritage League Alongside the 8th AF Historical Society Omaha, Nebraska, October 14-18

As on several other happy occasions, we will meet alongside our 'cousins,' vets, descendants and friends of all three divisions of The Mighty Eighth, this fall, at the DoubleTree Downtown Omaha. It promises to be a great meeting, and among other treats, HL Executive VP Mike Simpson and



DoubleTree Downtown Hotel, Omaha, NE

HL Secretary Brian Mahoney will present a proposal for a large volunteer effort to build a unified database of the operations of all 40 of the bomb groups of the 8th AF in WWII.

Follow this link to the latest announcements and registration materials: <http://www.heritageleague.org/reunions.htm>

*** Please note—Heritage League members check "Other" and fill-in Heritage League on 'Affiliation.' You can also add your Bomb Group after Heritage League.

We will notify you as to when our annual meeting will take place once we set a date and time.

Remember, as this is an odd-numbered year, it is time again for HL Elections at our Annual Membership Meeting. We will present a slate, but as always are open to floor nominations for the elective offices.

VP for Volunteers Chris Clark will be there with a running version of our database to let you look at described volunteer opportunities (such as the database project already mentioned) and tell us very specifically about your own availability, talent and interest areas as a volunteer.

Our socializing is the real draw, and the remaining time we have to spend with 8th AF veterans is really priceless. Make your plans now!

Shopping Alert

The Heritage League is participating in the Amazon



Smile program. The idea is simple: you shop Amazon Smile and they donate a portion of the proceeds to the Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division—USAAF.

Here is how it works: visit <http://smile.amazon.com>. Log in with your Amazon account username and password. If you don't have an account, create one.

Select the (charity) Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division—USAAF.

In the future, whenever you shop Amazon, shop smile.amazon.com, the Heritage League (name) will be on the top.

Best part—every eligible purchase is a donation. It's easy and we all win. Thanks for the support.



President Beverly Tomb presents a Heritage League check for the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum to 8th AFHS Board Member Col. Ed Wexler at the October 2014 Reunion in Nashville, TN

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the Officer's Club for the 453rd. She was then in civilian clothes. Seeing her at the Muscle Club was a surprise because she was in a non-commissioned officer uniform." They danced together for several dances, after which "I was approached by two MPs, who informed me they were going to write me up for dancing with an enlisted person."

The next day, "after returning to Old Buck, my squadron leader, a major, informed me that he was somewhat unhappy about my citation and having to take time to admonish me not to do it again," Cartier said, "I don't recall what I was accused of, perhaps "conduct unbecoming an officer."

Touring an old base, Cartier recalled a cold fact not mentioned in history books, "since we often took off around daybreak, we were roused in the dark and then had to shave! To look good? Oh, no! It was because we had to wear rubber oxygen masks as soon as the plane reached 10,000 feet. The masks fitted close around the chin, cheeks and nose, so a beard would be very uncomfortable."

Making the task irritating: "it was so early that the water heaters in the latrines had not yet been fired up," Cartier said, "Have you ever had to shave with cold water?"

He also recalled why combat crews had to wear electrically heated suits, socks and gloves during missions, "the B-24 space heaters burned fuel, and were useless at high altitudes, where oxygen was insufficient to light a flame."

After V-E Day, Cartier remained a few months as a 1st Lt. in public relations, writing hometown news releases about base staff.

Cartier had flown 35 combat missions, and explained why the "tour of duty" changed during the war. "Early on, the basis for a ticket home was 25 missions, which later was adjusted to 30 and then 35. "These numbers were derived from casualty figures. Early in the war, you had a 50-50 chance of surviving 25 combat missions. Later those odds came at 30 missions, and then 35 missions," he said, "Toward the end of the war, we and the RAF had gradually eliminated much of the Luftwaffe fighter planes."

At the 2AD Memorial Library, Cartier explained to staff the "Mickey" designation for B-24 crew. That was the classified secret designation for the operator of the Mickey Navigation System, developed

by the British. "The system used several broadcast stations in England, each using a different frequency. Planes could triangulate on them to determine their exact position over Germany or the English Channel."

Looking back on the 2014 Reunion, Cartier said, "I have nothing but admiration for the way Marybeth Dyer and all her (Heritage League) helpers handled every detail of the reunion."

After the war, Cartier had earned a doctorate from the University of Southern California, and launched a long and honored career in communication. In addition to writing several books, he taught poetry, speech and phonetics at several universities, communication at The Air University, and was director of development and evaluation at the USAF Language School (Lackland AFB, Texas) and the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center at the Presidio (Monterey California). He has lectured worldwide and headed his own firm TASCommunicating (The Arts & Sciences of Communicating).

Cartier lives in Pacific Grove CA.

DON O'REILLY

Enlisting in the Army Air Force, O'Reilly had high hopes of putting his mechanical interests to work for his country.

In testing at Fort Sheridan (IL), he scored high for intelligence and mechanical capability (which later carried him through an engineering career).

So where did he get placed: Military Police. "That's the Army. I was very disappointed and so mad."

He became "a very frustrated MP. I made PFC three times. I think I'm the only guy in the 2AD who never made it past PFC." But his leadership skills carried him beyond raw rank. He earned Sergeant Of The Guard status and carried an armband with sergeant stripes, supervising sergeants and civilians in leading base security.

At Norwich 2014, O'Reilly said "I sometimes felt like an interloper," mixing with combat veterans, but adds "I appreciated that they considered me one of them."



Return to Norwich and Sweden

by Bob Birmingham, 458th BG

Returning to Europe at this stage of my life was only a dream offered by the Heritage League. I could think many reasons that it was a bad idea but with the encouragement from Marybeth, I decided to take the plunge and what a good decision it was. Invitations by my friends in Sweden made it a done deal!

It was such a pleasure to meet my hardy Air Force buddies who I learned were all older than me and how unusual that three of us out of eight were graduates of Marquette University in Wisconsin. I was so honored to place a wreath at the wall of MIA at the American Cemetery at Cambridge and so pleased to see restored B24 at the American Air Museum in Duxford.

The side trip to the Estate of Sir John White for a cookout was a nice addition to the itinerary. I was happy I attended the Governors meeting at the library and pleased at how quickly I received the requested book about me and my crew "Red Dog." The library is a fine memorial to the 2nd Air Division. On Wednesday we visited our base, Horsham St. Faith, which is now the Norwich Airport. Part of the runway we used was still there and I must admit I had mixed feelings of seeing those B24 rumbling down the runway full of bombs and wondering whether we would get off the ground. The Airport personnel were very nice to us and allowed us to go everywhere even into the new tower, although we had to go through security twice. It was a wonderful return trip to Norwich meeting the same friendly people ready to help the yanks.

Now it was on to Sweden where we ended up in January 1945 after a bad day over Hamburg. 1280 8th Air Force Flyers were guests of the Swedish Government during the war. Jim, my son, and I were met at the Stockholm Airport by my friend Jan-Olaf Nilsson, author of the book "Red Dog" about our crash in Sweden. He and his cousin, Johan Nilsson drove us for three hours to Rattvik where I had spent the first couple months of internment in 1945.

We stayed at the hotel Lerdalshejden on the mountain overlooking the town and Lake Sil-

jan. The hospitality we received there was indicative of our visit to Sweden. The Mayor and two reporters came to our hotel talking about my visit in 1945. We spent two days in Rattvik retracing my steps of almost 70 years ago. I have only good memories of those days. After that we traveled some 400 miles through central Sweden to Falkenburg on the west coast or the best coast as the area Swedes say. This was the area of our crash and we soon learned that we were a continued part of the history of this area. Everyone we met had a Grandpa or Dad or relative who was at the crash site or saw the parachutes that day in 1945. We visited a group of people who gathered to show us pictures and videos taken in the war years. We visited the farm house near the crash where our pilot, Roger Hicks, had hidden for 24 hours thinking we might still be in enemy territory. I questioned a woman who lived there. She was 8 years old when the plane came over and crashed, and she said they were very frightened and their Father would not allow them to go outside for fear that it might be a Germany invasion. We visited a small private museum created by flying enthusiasts of a P51 that had crashed in the area and they had built a replica of our crashed plane. They were very excited to meet me and my son Jim.

In Falkenburg we were allowed to stay in Jan-Olof's daughter's apartment and she stayed with her parents. While we were there, Jan-Olof started to make a documentary about the Americans in Sweden during the war years. Not just about my crew, but about all 1280 8th Air Force fliers who sought refuge in Sweden. That is the stories about 120 crews as told in the book, "Making for Sweden" by Widfelt and Wagmann. This is only part of the little known story about Sweden's part in the Great War. Thousands of people found refuge in Sweden from all countries fleeing from the Nazi war machine and were graciously accepted by the Swedish Government.

I want to thank Marybeth, my niece, and my son Jim for making this trip possible.

Jim's Legacy to Battles Won and Comrades Lost

by Derek James, *Norwich Evening News 24*, reprinted with permission

A Living Memorial

During the Second World War the United States Eighth Air Force despatched 3,000 bombers and fighters on a day's operation involving more than 20,000 airmen, flying from airfields in East Anglia, the largest air strike ever committed to battle.

At full strength the Second Air Division controlled 14 heavy bomber airfields in Norfolk and northeast Suffolk, and five fighter airfields.

Ketteringham Hall served as the division's HQ. Nearly 7,000 Americans lost their lives in the line of duty. The memorial Library is a unique "living memorial" to them.

American airman Jim Wright only spent a few months in Norfolk during the Second World War but he never forgot the place and the people at a time of turmoil... and he has now left between \$100,000 and \$200,000 to the Second Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich in his will.

"I feel both amazed and moved, especially as he only spent six months in Norfolk," said the chairman of the unique memorial li-

brary in The Forum, Richard Middleton.

"It is hard for us to realise just what a profound effect their time in Norfolk had on these young men and women of the 2nd Air Division 70 years ago. That was brought home to me when I received a phone call out of the blue. It was a lawyer in Florida to tell me that the Memorial Trust was a beneficiary in the will of James F. Wright," he explained.

"After some general talk about the Memorial library, I asked her what we were likely to receive, expecting her to say maybe \$1,000 or so. Imagine my shock when she said we were to get a quarter of the residual estate and that the sum was likely to be between \$100,000 and \$200,000," said Richard.

It illustrates the impact the war had on thousands of young Americans when they "invaded" Norfolk to help us in the fight for freedom. The county was criss-crossed with air bases where the GIs flew dangerous and



Shipdham ambulances at the ready, as 44th BG Liberators prepare for short-interval takeoff as seen from control tower.

daring bombing missions deep into enemy territory. Almost 7,000 of them never went home.

Col. Jim Wright spent just six months in Norfolk. He was assigned to the 44th Bomb Group at Shipdham as a Bombardier Navigator to fly B24 Liberators and arrived there straight from training in October 1944.

"He flew 29 missions," said Richard, "including the last mission flown by the 44th on April 25, 1945 and returned to the US as a lead bombardier with a Distinguished Flying Cross and a string of other awards. He

was aged 23. Jim remained active in the Air Force Reserve following the war and was a life member of the 44th Bomb Group Veterans Association, as well as the 2nd Air Division Association and the 8th Air Force Historical Society. He worked as a public utility executive and died in 2012 aged 90. Only now are details of his will being finalised.

He left a wife, Marion, and sons William and Robert. Interment with full military honours was at Arlington National Cemetery.

"Veterans are very generous and this amount of money will make a real difference to us. His short time in Norfolk must have left a lasting impression," said Richard.

The 2nd Air Division Memorial Library grew from funds raised in 1945 by airmen and in 1963, 18 years af-



American War Memorial unveiled at Shipdham pic taken 3rd Sept. 1983.

ter the original money was collected, the library was opened at the then new Norwich Central Library.

Thousands of former airmen returned to Norwich with their families and the library took centre stage. It was a memorial like no other. There was also a Memorial Fountain, complete with stones from all 50 states in the US, built outside the Memorial Room. Then, in 1994, fire destroyed the central library along with the books, display items, uniforms, photographs and many items in the memorial library.

In 2001 many veterans once again returned to Norwich, this time to celebrate the opening of its new home in the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library. It has a lending collection of more than 4,000 books covering all aspects of American life and culture and a specialist collection devoted to the history of the 2nd Air Division.

It is a library we can all be proud of...and what a story it tells. So many young men gave their lives for our freedom and their story must never be forgotten.

If you knew Jim Wright and have any memories of him, I would like to hear from you. And what memories do you have of the Americans in Norfolk during the war? Perhaps you were a GI bride? Get in touch at derek.james2013@gmail.com.

With thanks to Mike Bailey.



"Germany Quits!" James F. Wright reading the news in 1945 that the free world yearned for.

How Can I Donate to the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library in Norwich, England?

by Beverly Tomb

The IRS only allows tax deductibility (for US individuals, estates and corporations) to offshore 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.



Heritage League President & Memorial Trust Governor Beverly Baynes Tomb presents the second 2014 Heritage League donation check to Richard Middleton, Chairman of the Memorial Trust Governors during the Annual General Meeting of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust Governors in Norwich City Council Hall on November 10, 2014.

Until its 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 con-

nection, because we have a voting Heritage League Memorial Trust Governor (our president Beverly Baynes Tomb).

So, to make a donation to the 2nd Air Division Memorial Library, we recommend donating to the Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division (USAAF) and note that your contribution is for the Memorial Library. Our treasurer, Sue Risley, makes sure your contributions go to the Memorial Library, and we have made a ceremony of our donations at the Trust Governors' meetings.

Dear Beverly,

I would like to thank you for the generous donations you made to both the Library and the Chuck Walker Scholarship on behalf of the Heritage League and I would be grateful if you would pass on our thanks to all your members. As we discussed many times during the week, generous gifts such as these help us to uphold the wishes of the Veterans of the 2nd Air Division for a permanent living memorial in Norwich; without them we would not be able to carry out that work as actively as we do at the moment. Once again thank you and I look forward to seeing you next year.

Regards, Richard Middleton

Somewhere in England— The Tail Gunner & The Jet Fighter

Interview by Evan Thomas; Transcribed by Lisa Niehoff

Edward Paretti of Dobbs Ferry and Hastings-on-Hudson, New York passed away this summer, he was 93. Mr. Paretti served as a tail gunner in the 448th BG. In 2007, I videotaped an interview with him in which he described a combat encounter with ME-262 jet fighters.

On that mission, did you see any jet fighters?

Well this is—I'm gonna tell you this story and I just can't remember the mission although I do have an air medal that's dated April 5th and that aeroplane that's cut in half we were flying a group ahead of that. Now that flight back there was Ed Chu's flight and I always tried the best I could to get around some the facts on this. And I watched those jets come down to my right, circle that group and shoot the hell out of them.

And one jet came right at us and we were flying in the low right what they call the coffin corner and that jet came at me. And as far as everybody in my flight knows I was the only one shooting at him. And to make a long story short it was posted on the squadron bulletin board that that was confirmed kill. Now I got a call to go into CQs office the next day to go in there. And this guy said he was a gunnery officer whoever the hell he was. Wanted to know if I would appear at the post theatre the next night to give a talk. And at that time I was reluctant to talk because I wasn't a public speaker and I said I don't go over there so took off and took a walk around the base, I never did go there. Now that's a true story. And the only ones that know this story—my co-pilot, when I talked to him in Texas he said "Oh jeez, I tell everybody about how you shot down a jet!" Now, the crew that was up on top of that flight, second on the left, the top gunner he said he couldn't get a shot at him and he says that that aeroplane went down. Now I didn't see him go down. I'm not gonna say he went down; all I know is what was on the bulletin board and that they wanted me to appear. Now if I told this to Ed Chu he would say I was full of s*&! so this is why I don't mention it, I mention it to you. But these are facts.

Can you describe what it was like when the jet was coming at you?

We were very, very scared and when the gunnery office said to me you know you're supposed to start firing at 600 yards. He said, "When did you start firing?" "It must have been 3 miles out" I said "I started firing when I assumed he was gonna come towards me and I never let up" he said "good boy!" that's all he said. I never let up and as I'm sitting here he came right over and you could see him and he was smoking like hell. Now whether that was smoke from the jet engine I don't know.

Could you see him in the cockpit? Could you see the pilot?

Pardon? Oh yeah! Yeah, he was that close! And Ed Chu tells the same story, he could see the pilot. Ed Chu opened up; he emptied his machine gun on the guy. Now, whether that's the same one that came towards us or even whether it's the same flight? It has to be the same flight because Charlie Cup was the one that got— id you talk to Charlie Cups daughter? He's the one that got out. It's the same flight that they claim I shot down a jet. Now, if you want to confirm you ever want to talk to my co-pilot I'll give you his number he's in San Antonio, Texas.

Did you ever see ships going down and explosions?

The only ship I saw go down was that one that's cut in half there. But the other ones the ones in the distance it's hard to...some of them are hard to see that are hit and you see the parachutes.

So you had a clear view of the one...of Charlie Cups?

Charlie Cups? Oh yeah. He was flying...they were...I understand on that mission that some of the aeroplanes went to Weisendorf is it? and some of them went to...another target. And I believe Ed Chu's crew and our flight were going to different targets even though we were in a different area.

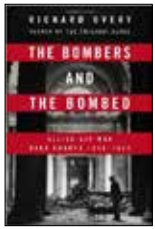
Charlie Cups plane how long would that event...him going down and that tail coming off can you describe it?

I didn't see Charlie Cups parachute to tell you the truth I saw the aeroplane cut in half, I saw that one. And at that time we were scared to hell with it.

This is my quest; to learn everything I can about 4th April 1945 when Liberators of the 2nd AD were attacked by jets and in doing so discover what it was like to serve in the USAAF. I've posted an article and more clips from the interview at: <http://happywarriors.co.uk> and <http://twitter.com/happywarriors/status/582661763767754752>

the write stuff

book notices
& reviews



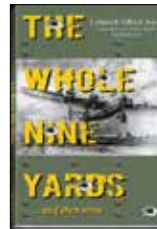
The Bombers and the Bombed: Allied Air War Over Europe 1940-45 by Richard Overy (Viking/Penguin Group © 2013 562pp including index and many newly published photos, \$36 hardbound)—reviewed by Brian Mahoney

This is not a lightweight book, but it commands the attention of any readers interested in the moral shadings that differentiated US and UK 'philosophies' on civilian targeting, military objectives, unlimited war, and the ways these sensibilities shifted as the Eastern and Western fronts finally started rushing toward each other in the last several months of the war in Europe.

This is very important stuff, and although it of course treats 1940s bombing technology, with its huge destructive power and comparatively indiscriminate aim and often use, the discussions about collateral damage, unintended consequences, and populace morale will all resonate, sadly, with the present day bombing technology and use in the Mid East. The limits and power of the air arm to project power over great distance, demand that the society supporting its use, in the first war where it was truly proven effective, or now and in the future, be mindful of the implications of both 'bomber and bombed,' as individuals and societies, whether victorious or vanquished.

This thoroughly researched volume extends the conversation laid down in Carl Spaatz and the Air War in Europe by Richard Davis (USAF Historian ca 2000), bringing additional players and original source material, such as correspondence and study findings, to the mix, with very compelling and thought-provoking interpretation. Students of air war, war technology, and industrial war morality, all would do well to read these two, over a period of time allowing for reflection and discussion with like-minded others. (On a side note, this reviewer is thinking the Heritage League should have a 'virtual book club' among its members...we could meet for free over Skype. Let me know what you think!)

The decision makers, military and civilian, and their all-important deputies, and the issues with which they struggled, are made real and nuanced, bringing the reader vividly to the period where the outcome was not fully assured, and a de-industrialized, post-war Germany was widely imagined. The book offers yet another view into the pressures felt by the western Allies, from Stalin, to hurt the Germans and bear all necessary losses to defeat Nazism. Highly recommended for serious students of air war, WWII, and war morality.



The Whole Nine Yards...and Then Some

by Col. Alfred Asch and David Asch
(self published through Don Wise Productions, Franklin TN ©2013 426 pp, illustrated. \$24.95 hardbound, \$9.95 eBook. See: <http://thewholenineyards.us/>)—reviewed by Brian Mahoney

Fair disclosure: this reviewer was an unabashed admirer of the late Al Asch, whose long USAF career dovetailed with that of the late Col. Frank Green, a lifelong friend of my late father from service in the original 492nd BG. I should disclose also my admiration for the younger Asch, who supported his dad in creating this compelling document of a life lived well and lived large. David had the pleasure of seeing his father read the printed product before he died in late 2013 and gave me an inscribed copy upon publication.

This personal record, rich with correspondence and photos, draws the reader into the adventurous and courageous life of a great exemplar of 'the greatest generation' as he matures, finds direction, purpose, passion and love. Al recounts his industrious youth, remembering his cars and the prices paid and deals made, and gives detailed and colorful impressions of life in rural Michigan during the Depression. His maturation as a citizen and service man and leader, infused with his straightforward Christian viewpoint, makes for an engaging, easy read. His early flying and early commission in the Air Corps had him in the vanguard of the 93rd BG as it went overseas to England, then to Africa, and back. Al is our intelligent and plain speaking witness to daily life as well as major historic episodes, like the low-level Ploiesti Raid of August 1, 1943.

The story runs right through his military and later civilian careers and wonderful family life. Highly recommended for all in 'the second generation' who crave the texture of their father's times and experiences, told naturally and clearly.



Recent batch of coin orders being decorated for parties in various BGs. Rightmost coin is for one of our new friends whose vet was in two different groups. Who can name them? Order yours from Treasurer Sue Risley, check to Heritage League, for \$15 (plain) or \$25 for decorated (specify the BG to be represented in fin on 'tail' side). Photo: Brian Mahoney

From the Desk of Mike Simpson

Executive Vice President of the Heritage League

Just this past week I read a story about the discovery of collection of World War I personal belongings. It seems that the relatives of a woman who had passed away were cleaning out the attic of her home and found boxes of military records, photographs, letters and medals for valor and wounds received in action. They were the belongings of her brother who survived the war and was discharged in 1919.

There's nothing unusual about this find as I'm sure it gets repeated many more times than it is reported. But it goes to the heart of the matter that so many families never know of the service and sacrifices made by family members during wartime.

A lot of this comes from the veterans themselves, and I, as a veteran of two different wars, can attest that veterans are reluctant to talk about their service. It's so very hard to put into words what happens in combat in a way that those who've never experienced it can understand. Only in the company of those who have "seen the elephant and been changed" can the stories be told and understood; not for bravado, but for the need of an emotional release.

I have been honored in the past to attend several 2nd Air Division reunions before they folded the organization. At first I was hesitant to ask questions for fear of not being taken seriously—as I was not one of them. I soon learned that the veterans would open up and talk about their experiences. They wanted their stories to be told so that the following generations could understand what they did and why it was necessary.

I remember listening to Ira Weinstein recount his time in Stalag Luft I after being shot down on September 27, 1944 on the ill-fated Kassel mission flown by the 445th Bomb Group. He talked about how the Germans tried to segregate the Jewish aircrew members from the main camp population and how the senior American officer in the camp stood up to the camp commandant and forced the Germans to abandon their plan. Or how, on Christmas Day, 1944, while the other occupants of his barrack room were at Christmas services, he prepared a special holiday meal for them.

Ray Lemons is another character. I still am in awe when I think about how he crawled forward from his waist gun position with flames coming from the opening to the bomb bay rolling along the top of the fuselage to get his parachute—and then helping the other waist gunner and the wounded tail gunner bail out first before he left. Such is the character of the members of our "greatest generation."

If you know of a family member who might have been a veteran, ask them what they did during their time of service. Not everyone was a hero in the sense of the word, but that doesn't mean that their service wasn't any less valuable or important. The guys in combat couldn't do anything without the support of the truck drivers to bring ammunition up to the front lines. The guys in the bombers wouldn't have anything to drop on the enemy without the support of the ordnance crews who loaded the planes, or the mechanics who worked through the night to replace a leaking wing tank.

Take note, or better yet, get it on tape. These are the stories that need to be told so that we, as a nation, will never forget.

Southern California Regional Brunch—June 6, 2015

Galpin Ford Motors of Van Nuys, CA and the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF) will sponsor the thirty-fourth Southern California Regional Brunch of the Second Air Division, Eighth Air Force to be held on June 6, 2015 at The Proud Bird, 11022 Aviation Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90045, a larger venue so no one has to be turned away. The veterans along with their families and friends look forward to this annual event and 2015 is no exception. All veterans and their supporters are welcome, especially those from World War II. We hope that you will join us as we mark the 71st anniversary of D-Day and the 70th anniversary of V-E Day.



The Proud Bird Restaurant

For a number of years, Bill A. Jones has performed Master of Ceremonies duties and entertained the gathering. He will join us again this year. Big Band music will also be part of the program. Special entertainment

has included speakers and films on many different subjects relative to World War II. Displays of memorabilia have been available for all to see. The tradition will continue.

Do plan to attend. Bring your veteran, friends and family. Join us in a salute to our heroes.

For more information or to register you may contact Peggy via telephone at (818) 366-6972 or email at whiteplains38@aol.com. Watch <http://heritageleague.org> for updated information as the date nears.

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:

IN HONOR OF

Albert H. Biel (Claire Biel)

Francis P. Birmingham (Barbara Figueroa)

James Conley (James Conley)

Norbert Kosin (Norbert Kosin)

Burton Madison (Debbie Simms-Watson)

Matthew Martin (Vicki and Kurt Warning)

Robert L. Thomas (Robert L. "Bud" Thomas)

IN MEMORY OF

Ralph and Ginny Belward (Caryl Belward)

William Berry, Pilot 389th and 93rd (E. Bud Koorndyk)

Frederick Bromm (Jacque Bromm)

"Bud" Chamberlain (Dana Chamberlain)

Lt.Col. Dario A. de Julio (Diane de Julio)

Robert J. Drummond (Joseph Drummond)

Jack Dyson (Debbie Duke)

John H. Friedhaber (Susan Friedhaber-Hand)

Amisa Gilpatrick (Rory Delia Gilpatrick)

Royal O. Grumbach, Lt.Col, USAF(Ret)
(Paul Grumbach)

Dean H. Hart (Katherine Hart)

Paul R. Harwood (Richard Harwood)

Jacob and Shirley Katz (Gary Katz)

Carl Ernest Marino (Elizabeth Marino)

Johnnie H. Martin (Johnny Sandlin)

Dean Moyer (Barbara Moyer Coverdale)

John H. Nacey (Susan Nacey)

Staff Sgt. Robert E. Peterson, Sr. (Arthur Peterson)

Richard Ramp (Viola Ramp)

Richard I. Ramp (Paula Sorrell)

J.A. "Aud" Risley, 446th BG (Steve Risley)

SSgt Gale M Rucker, 491st BG (Maj. Stephen J. Rucker)

Leo W. Ryan (Geraldine Suskin)

George W. Smith (April Reed)

Lt. Col. Richard M. Stenger (Paula Blum)

Capt. Fred A. Strombom (Karen Strombom)

J. Fred Thomas (Former President of 2ADA)
(Terry Johnson)

David E. Tuckwiller (Carol Tuckwiller)

Chuck Walker (Joan Patterson)

Charles A. Yant (Kathy Jackson)

The 5 members of my crew who died 10/18/1944
(Stephen Bolcar)

SAVE THE DATE! 2015 Reunion: Heritage League Alongside the 8th AF Historical Society Omaha, Nebraska, October 14-18

As on several other happy occasions, we will meet alongside our 'cousins,' vets, descendants and friends of all three divisions of The Mighty Eighth, this fall, at the DoubleTree Downtown Omaha. It promises to be a great meeting, and among other treats, HL Executive VP Mike Simpson and HL Secretary Brian Mahoney will present a proposal for a large volunteer effort to build a unified database of the operations of all 40 of the bomb groups of the 8th AF in WWII.

Follow this link to the latest announcements, registration materials, and hotel information: <http://www.heritageleague.org/reunions.htm>



DoubleTree Downtown Hotel, Omaha, NE

*** Please note—Heritage League members check "Other" and fill-in Heritage League on 'Affiliation.' You can also add your Bomb Group after Heritage League. We will notify you as to when our annual meeting will take place once we set a date and time.

Remember, as this is an odd-numbered year, it is time again for HL Elections at our Annual Membership Meeting. We will present a slate, but as always are open to floor nominations for the elective offices.

VP for Volunteers, Chris Clark, will be there with a running version of our database to let you look at described volunteer opportunities (such as the database project already mentioned) and tell us very specifically about your own availability, talent and interest areas as a volunteer.

Our socializing is the real draw, and the remaining time we have to spend with 8th AF veterans is really priceless. Make your plans now!

DOUBLETREE HOTEL OMAHA DOWNTOWN – OMAHA, NE (800) 222-8733 or (402) 346-7600

www.doubletree3.hilton.com/en/hotels/nebraska/doubletree-by-hilton-hotel-omaha-downtown-OMAH-DT/index.html

Location

1616 Dodge Street, Omaha, NE 68102

Located in the heart of downtown Omaha and just ten minutes from the Eppley Airport.

Reservation Information

Call the number above and reference the 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion or please visit www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2015 and click on the hotel reservation link at the top of the page to make reservations and receive the discounted group rate.

Group Name: 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion

Reunion Dates: October 14-18, 2015

Rate: \$105 + tax (currently 18.16%). Rates are offered 3 days before and 3 days after reunion dates, based on group block availability.

Cut off Date: 09/11/15. Late reservations will be processed based on space availability at a higher rate.

Cancellation Policy: All reservations have a 48 hour cancellation policy, or the attendee will be charged one night's room rate plus tax. All early departures are subject to an early departure penalty \$25 and late check-outs are subject to a penalty of \$75.

Unit Hospitality Suites

Hospitality Suites for individual groups will be available on the guest room floors for \$125/night, payable to the Society. This fee includes ice service and daily housekeeping. "Suites" will be two connecting sleeping rooms (with beds removed). All suites will be located in close proximity to each other so visiting between groups will be easy! To reserve a suite, please contact Donna at DonnaLee@afri.com with your name, unit name, and nights needed for hospitality suites. These rooms follow the same check-in/out pattern as normal sleeping rooms

Parking & Shuttle Information

The Doubletree Hotel is offering complimentary self parking to all overnight guests. The hotel also offers complimentary shuttle service to and from the Omaha Eppley Airfield. Upon arrival at the airport you will need to call the hotel and then proceed outside to the shared ride/taxi pickup/drop off stand outside baggage claim.

Wheelchair Rental

ScoutAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call (888) 441-7575 or visit www.scoutaround.com for details and to make reservations.

**8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION
DOUBLETREE DOWNTOWN OMAHA
OCTOBER 14 – 18, 2015**

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

See choices below and complete the Registration Form noting your event choices and personal information. By "WWII GROUP," we're asking for the group or unit in which you served (specific Bomb Group, Fighter Group, PRG, HQ, etc.). We use this information for tallying totals for each group, nametags, and seating arrangements. If you prefer to sit with a different group, please give us that information too. We do not need your squadron. Remit by mail with check or money order payable to Armed Forces Reunions by September 11, 2015. You may also register and pay with credit card online at www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2015. A 3% convenience fee will be added to online credit card reservations. Forms received after September 11 will be accepted on a space available basis only. Hotel reservations should also be made by September 11, 2015.

ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. CANCELLATION POLICY

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less a \$5 per person processing fee. Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less a \$5 processing fee. Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 4:00pm Eastern Time, excluding holidays. Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation doesn't cancel your reunion activities.

MEALS / EVENTS CHOICES**MEAL PACKAGE 1 \$212**

Package includes 7 hotel food functions beginning with breakfast on Thursday (4 breakfasts, 3 dinners).

MEAL PACKAGE 2 \$148

Package includes 5 hotel food functions beginning with breakfast on Friday (3 breakfasts, 2 dinners).

The continental breakfast buffets include juice, fruit, cereals/milk, yogurt, breakfast breads, and coffee. The full breakfast buffets include juice, fruit, eggs, meat, potatoes, breakfast bread, and coffee.

CHOICE #3 INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Thursday's Buffet at \$44 is included in Package 1 but can be purchased separately. Friday's Rendezvous Dinner at \$45 (individual Bomb Group Dinners for groups of 30 or more) and Saturday's Banquet at \$45 can be purchased separately as well, but are included in both packages above.

TOUR OPTIONS

Tours and trips are described on the Reunion Highlights Pages. Prices are listed on the registration form. Driver and Staff gratuities are not included in the tour prices. All trips require a minimum of 35 people. Please be at the bus boarding area five minutes prior to the departure time.

**8th AIR FORCE HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL REUNION
DOUBLETREE DOWNTOWN OMAHA
OCTOBER 14-18, 2014**

Wednesday, October 14

1:00pm	-	6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
1:00pm			Memorabilia / Gathering Room open throughout the reunion.
1:00pm	-	4:00pm	8AFHS Board Meeting
6:00pm	-	7:00pm	Welcome Reception, followed by dinner on your own.

Thursday, October 15

7:30am	-	8:30am	Continental Breakfast for Package #1 participants
8:00am	-	11:00am	Reunion Registration open
9:00am	-	1:30pm	CITY TOUR / OLD MARKET
9:30am	-	12:30pm	BRIEFING AT THE BUNKER (STRATCOM HQ)
1:00pm	-	6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
2:00pm	-	3:30pm	Q&A WWII Vets
3:45pm	-	5:00pm	Q&A Cold War Vets
6:00pm	-	9:00pm	Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm	-	9:00pm	Dinner Buffet – WWII Program

Friday, October 16

7:30am	-	8:30am	Full Breakfast Buffet for Meal Package participants
8:00am	-	10:00am	Reunion Registration open
8:30am	-	10:00am	Individual Group Meetings
10:00am	-	11:20am	Chapter & Unit Development Meeting
11:30am	-	4:00pm	BUZZING AT THE BLUFFS MINI AIR SHOW
2:00pm	-	6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
6:00pm	-	9:00pm	8AFHS Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm	-	9:00pm	Rendezvous Dinners

Saturday, October 17

7:30am	-	8:30am	Continental Breakfast for Meal Package participants
8:45am	-	10:15am	General Membership Meeting
11:00am	-	4:30pm	DURHAM MUSEUM / CITY TOUR
12:00pm	-	4:00pm	8AFHS Board Meeting
12:30pm	-	4:00pm	STRATEGIC AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM
5:30pm	-	6:00pm	Reunion Registration open
6:00pm	-	9:00pm	8AFHS Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm	-	10:00pm	Banquet Dinner & Entertainment

Sunday, October 18

7:00am	-	8:30am	Full Breakfast Buffet for Meal Package participants
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8th AFHS ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM – OCTOBER 14-18, 2015

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/8afhs2015 (3% will be added to total). If a valid email address is provided, an electronic receipt will be sent. Otherwise, your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received on or before September 11, 2015. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. Your contact information will be shared only with other reunion attendees.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.

322 Madison Mews

Norfolk, VA 23510

ATTN: 8th AFHS

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Date Received _____
 Inputted _____ Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 9/11/2015

	Price Per	# of People	Total
REGISTRATION FEE			
Includes meeting expenses and other reunion expenses.	\$40		\$
Reg. Fee for children ages 8-16 attending more than 1 function & staying at hotel	\$25		\$
MEAL PACKAGES			
Package #1 includes 7 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Thursday	\$212		\$
Package #2 includes 5 hotel meals beginning with breakfast on Friday	\$148		\$
Please select your entrée choice(s) for the Banquet:			
10oz. Grilled NY Strip		#	
Roasted Salmon with a lemon-herb sauce		#	
SEPARATELY PRICED MEALS (if not purchasing a package)			
Thursday, 10/15: Dinner Buffet	\$44		\$
Friday, 10/16: Rendezvous Dinner (Pan Roasted Chicken)	\$45		\$
Saturday, 10/17: Banquet (please select your entrée)			
10oz. Grilled NY Strip	\$45		\$
Roasted Salmon with a lemon-herb sauce	\$45		\$
TOURS			
Please choose one of the following two tours:			
Thursday, 10/15: City Tour / Old Market	\$37		\$
Thursday, 10/15: Briefing at the Bunker	\$28		\$
Friday, 10/16: Buzzing at the Bluffs Mini Air Show	\$29		\$
Please choose one of the following two tours:			
Saturday, 10/17: Durham Museum / City Tour	\$47		\$
Saturday, 10/17: Strategic Air and Space Museum	\$41		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.			\$

****Please Note: Heritage League Members, in the boxes below, check "Other" and fill-in Heritage League on 'Affiliation.' You can also add your bomb group after Heritage League. We will notify you as to when our annual meeting will take place once we have set the date and time.

Please Print

MEMBER NAME (for nametag) _____

☐ VETERAN ☐ NEXT GEN ☐ OTHER WWII GROUP AFFILIATION (please list BG, not BS) _____

IF A VETERAN, PLEASE CIRCLE: POW WWII Cold War Era Korea Vietnam Gulf War Desert Storm Iraq Other _____

SPOUSE NAME (if attending) _____

GUEST NAMES _____ ☐ NEXT GEN

PHONE # (____) _____ - _____ EMAIL ADDRESS _____ @ _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

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

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www.heritageleague.org

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