



HERITAGE HERALD

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

A Special Afternoon at Old Buck *by Gretchen Hurner Derbidge & Irene Hurner*



With all due respect. British protocol for flags differs markedly from American, especially in connection with 'touching colors to ground.' Old Glory was secured against a too-stiff wind by the same caring people who built and maintain markers in beautiful and dignified settings. Plaque on ground in front of 453rd marker reads: "This Memorial Garden was opened on The 11th November 2013 by Patt Ramm. It was created by Shaun Hindle, Steve Garrett, Scott Cooper, Lee Belcher & Matt Wilkins." *All photos by Gretchen H. Derbidge.*

Squeezed into the only allowable space according to the working airports flight path, in front of the Mighty Eighth Memorial marker is a new historically accurate Nissen Hut. The privately built hut is filled to the brim with all kinds of original memorabilia from the Pat Ramm Memorial Collection and that of the new museum's curator, James Clarey. The museum was designed especially to hold the large collection that Pat Ramm had amassed during his lifetime and the building bears his name in memory.

After his death last year, his widow, Agnes, generously donated Pat's private collection to the 453rd airbase at Old Buckingham. Parts of the original airstrips are still in use due to the airport manager's explanation of "good old American concrete." In a small spot in front of an old hangar, the date of construction still shows the birth of the airbase as 23-12-42.

Curator James Clarey, airfield manager Matt Wilkins, and their team were busy putting the finishing touches on the museum as Doug

and Beverly Tomb (President Heritage League) Tomb, Irene Hurner (Past- President and daughter of 453rd Veteran Albert Biel), Gretchen Derbidge (Irene's daughter), and Colin Mann arrived for a preview. The group gazed in marvel at the many original items more than seventy years old, which have been protected by these two men. According to the article in the Eastern Daily Press, the museum features

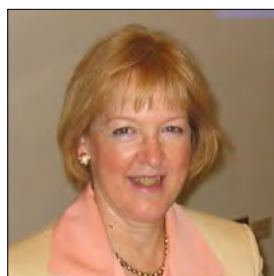
the largest collection of 453rd memorabilia in existence. Curator Clarey is quoted, "The museum tells the story of the ground crews and the air crews who worked, lived and died here." To us, highlights of the display include original flying jackets worn by crewmembers (one says El Flako. That was especially poignant as A.H. Biel, my grandfather, flew that plane on one of his missions.), a dispatchers hut, and an original airfield plaque carved from an ammo box. It is expected that about one-third of the collection will be on display at any one time. The task of cataloging, protecting, displaying and interpreting has now passed to Mr. Clarey.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Best wishes to all for a happy and healthy 2016! As I write this, your president is enjoying a cozy and quiet day in the DC area during Snowstorm Jonas, surrounded by about two feet of snow.



I'm sure you will enjoy this first Heritage Herald of 2016. We have lots of news from writers and photo contributors on the Heritage League Executive Committee, an 11-year-old boy who is a first-time contributor, the librarian from the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust Library, and others in both the US and UK.

It was great to see so many of you in October 2015 at our wonderful Heritage League reunion co-located with the 8th Air Force Historical Society Reunion in Omaha, NE.

In November, two board members with family also made the trip to England for Remembrance Day ceremonies and church services as well as the Annual General

Meeting of the Memorial Trust Governors.

At the Heritage League Annual Meeting during our October Reunion, the 2015-2017 slate of officers was voted in. I'm delighted that it's the same Executive Committee, since we are working so well together. You will find the names and contact information on the back page of this Herald.

You can see more about upcoming Heritage League events in this issue: The annual Southern California Regional Brunch takes place on June 4, 2016 in Van Nuys, CA and the Heritage League 2016 Annual Reunion will be held in Washington, DC from September 14-18, 2016. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend!

If you have news to contribute, or would like to volunteer, please let us know using the Contact Us page on the Heritage League website: www.heritageleague.org.

Beverly Baynes Tomb

President, Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division (USAAF),
American Voting Governor, 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust

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Craftsman's version of 'bread-and-butter-note.' Heritage League VP for Volunteers Chris Clark, seen in his custom finishing shop, shows off hand-turned mahogany finial, crafted as a surprise 'thank you' for David and Jaquie Gurney, who graciously hosted him and the rest of our League Executive Board in England in 2014. This finial now adorns the crest of the tall clock in the entry vestibule of the Gurney's Norfolk country estate. *Photo: Brian Mahoney.*



Mighty D8a is Introduced

by Irene Hurner



Present and Previous Heritage League Executive VPs. Researchers Mike Simpson (445th) and Bob Books (392nd Gold Star son) discuss potential of the newly launched 'Mighty D8a' initiative. Photo: Brian Mahoney.

On Friday afternoon during the convention, Barbara Mello, Damian Fischer, and I were sitting in the Heritage League hospitality suite playing a rousing card game, when we noticed people beginning to gather in the room. We helped set up chairs so that everyone could sit facing the television. Shortly, Secretary Brian Mahoney and Vice-President Mike Simpson took their places flanking the TV and were preparing to give a presentation.

Before long, the room was full of people anxious to hear what the fellows had to say. By the time the presentation be-

gan, there were no empty seats. Mike and Brian explained the need for a data base program, which would link up all of the operational data of the Mighty Eighth that has been collected or will be collected from historical sources. Data would include information on the Eighth's forty heavy bomb groups, the three hundred thousand airmen, and the ground support personnel that made victory in Europe possible. Thus the name Mighty D8a.

During the last few years, the two fellows have been working to develop the format. It was infectious to listen to Mike and Brian speak with enthusiasm of their vision and explain some of the mechanics of building this program. People listened, asked questions, and offered some suggestions. For me, just trying to grasp the monumental task that this would entail, was overwhelming. Brian and Mike said that the volunteer effort is off to a promising start, but it's time to enlist researchers, data enthusiasts, and others who would be able to help complete this daunting task. Recognizing that many in attendance are members of both groups, Brian mentioned that stewardship of the veterans' legacy is part of the on-going missions of both the 8th Air Force Historical Society and of the Heritage League. It would be deemed appropriate for everyone to work together on this task. Part of the goal is to harvest information from the National Archives and the USAF Historical Research Agency and then put it into a searchable format. This will take volunteers on many levels and funding. The seed was planted in that room. People in attendance expressed interest and, in some cases, awe of the task at hand.

As they left, everyone was discussing the possibilities of the project. I am certain that a bright future is in store. As Brian and Mike said, "We are the last generations who will be able to interpret, arrange, and coordinate the records." We have memories of our veterans and of their stories. The Heritage League members want to make every effort to preserve them accurately so that following generations will be able to know the truth. It seems fitting to me that the board has decided to visit the National Archives near Washington, D.C. during our convention this coming September. It will be a first visit for many attendees and will surely give them a taste of the opportunities and a desire to join in the task at hand. If anyone would like more information, email Vice-President Mike Simpson at mike@445BG.org, or Secretary Brian Mahoney at archivist@brianhmahoney.com.

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Sun sets on special afternoon. Irene Hurner, Airfield Manager Matt Wilkins and Beverly Tomb.

Along the side of the hut running back to the memorial stone are three original runway lights leading the visitor to the equipment on display.

As impressive as the collection is, we were told that there are enough artifacts to fill two more huts of the same size.

Matt and the airfield's owner are planning to add another hut to the mu-



Flight jackets and other items in a display case of new museum at Old Buckenham airfield.

seum in the future.

Afterwards, our group was treated to a tour of the airfield by manager Matt Wilkins. We saw a number of unique planes that are housed in the hangars, a hangar ready for a party, the memorial to the 453rd Bomb Group, and we heard plans for the future. It was a very special afternoon.

The Pat Ramm Building was christened on Remembrance Sunday, November 8, 2015.

We were unable to attend the formal opening, but at lunch a few days later, Agnes told us that her children, family members, and a large group were in attendance. The museum remained open to the public for the day, and then the doors were closed until it permanently re-opens in late March, 2016. At that time, the hope is to have the majority of the museum available for viewing online.



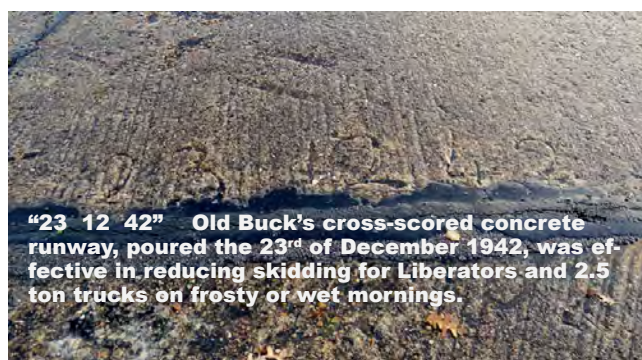
The front of an exact replica of a World War II Nissen hut built to house the memorabilia of Pat Ramm that was donated by his widow, Agnes Ramm. The official dedication was held on Remembrance Day, November 8, 2015. Agnes Ramm and family were in attendance.

A preview of the museum was given to the press on Friday afternoon, November 6th and an article appeared in the Eastern Daily Press on Saturday entitled "New museum to honour wartime bombing group."

The EDP also included a short history of the 453rd on page 3 stating that some personnel arrived the week before Christmas 1943, the first B-24 Liberator arrived on January 2, 1944, and operations began on February 5, 1944. The bomb group flew 259 missions, losing 58 aircraft and 366 servicemen. The last mission was flown on April 11, 1945.



Museum visitor and Irene Hurner listen to Old Buck airfield manager Matt Wilkins tell the story of the new museum.



"23 12 42" Old Buck's cross-scored concrete runway, poured the 23rd of December 1942, was effective in reducing skidding for Liberators and 2.5 ton trucks on frosty or wet mornings.

Remembrance Day Ceremonies Across Norfolk

by Beverly Baynes Tomb

My husband Doug and I spent a wonderful week in Norwich, Hethel, Old Buckenham, Attlebridge, Maddingley and Ely along with past president Irene Hurner and her daughter, Gretchen Hurner Derbridge,

of the 2nd Air Division Assoc. as special guests watching from the balcony of Norwich City Hall. As the Trust Governor representing the Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division (USAAF), I was honored to join the pro-



Norwich War Memorial across from City Hall after all wreaths were laid, and the parade to Norwich Cathedral for the Remembrance Service was starting. Photo: Beverly Tomb.

cession of dignitaries in regalia to lay the wreath for the 2nd Air Division. After the ceremony at the War Memorial, our group followed the parade to Norwich Cathedral and enjoyed the lovely Remembrance Service there, followed by lunch in the Cathedral's Refectory (aka cafeteria).

The Annual General Meeting of the Governors of the Memorial Li-

brary Trust took place on Monday, Nov 9 at the Norfolk County Council Chamber. I gave a report for the Heritage League, and closed by delivering a donation from the Heritage League to Chairman of the Trust Governors, Richard Middleton, and a gift of appreciation to Trust Governor David Gurney.

On November 10, Paul and Eileen Hindle generously drove Doug and me to many wonderful sites around Attlebridge Air Base where my father, Richard Baynes, was a B-24 pilot with the 466th BG. Besides visiting the home now occupying the Attlebridge RR Station, the Weston Longville Parish Church, Parson Woodforde pub, and a bomb shelter, we had a very special stop at the the 466th BG Memorial at Frans Green. There, Peter Woodcock and I shared the honor of placing a beautiful wreath.

Arriving in Norwich on Friday, Nov 6, we were delighted to catch amazing Guy Fawkes fireworks from the large windows of a restaurant near Norwich City Hall. The next morning, Colin Mann, a stalwart British friend of the 2nd Air Division, kindly drove us to Hethel for their Remembrance Saturday ceremony. Trust Governors Richard Middleton and Andrew Hawker also attended.

Read about our Saturday afternoon visit to the new museum at Old Buckenham in the lead article in this issue, "A Special Afternoon at Old Buck."

On Sunday, November 8, the city of Norwich held its annual Remembrance Sunday ceremony. Doug, Irene, and Gretchen joined several Trust Governors and Dede Casad, widow of Chuck Walker, former president

of the 2nd Air Division Assoc. as special guests watching from the balcony of Norwich City Hall. As the Trust Governor representing the Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division (USAAF), I was honored to join the procession of dignitaries in regalia to lay the wreath for the 2nd Air Division. After the ceremony at the War Memorial, our group followed the parade to Norwich Cathedral and enjoyed the lovely Remembrance Service there, followed by lunch in the Cathedral's Refectory (aka cafeteria).

Thanks to Colin Mann for another day of driving all four Americans on Veterans Day/Remembrance Day, this time to lay a wreath for the Heritage League—a first on Veterans Day, and a remembrance we plan to continue in coming years. The floral wreath from the Heritage League was placed next to that of the American Air Museum in Duxford after a lovely ceremony that included officials from the USAF, the RAF,

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Fred Squires, Chairman of the 389th BG Memorial Group at Hethel near Norwich, Irene Hurner, Heritage League Past-President, and Beverly Baynes Tomb, Heritage League President. *Photo: Gretchen H. Derbridge.*



Heritage League President & Memorial Trust Governor Beverly Baynes Tomb presents the second 2015 Heritage League donation check to Chairman Richard Middleton during the Annual General Meeting of the 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust Governors in Norwich City Council Hall on November 9, 2015. *Photo: Gretchen H. Derbridge.*



Style and smiles! Ladies in hats for Remembrance Sunday: Gretchen Hurner Derbridge and HL President Beverly Tomb in the Norwich Cathedral Refectory. *Photo: Irene Hurner.*



Memories of the past flood over Beverly Baynes Tomb and Peter Woodcock, who lived next to the base as a child, after laying the Remembrance wreath at the 466th Memorial. *Photo: Doug Tomb.*

The card on our poppy wreath says "In memory of the 6881 men of the 2nd Air Division who gave their lives in WWII." *Photo: Beverly B. Tomb.*



Vice-Chairman of the Trust Governors Andrew Hawker and Heritage League Past-President Irene Hurner in the Norwich Cathedral Refectory on Remembrance Sunday. Visible between them at another table is Robin Eaton, widow of the late Trust Governor Tom Eaton. *Photo: Beverly B. Tomb.*

Good company! Enjoying a Refectory lunch following the Cathedral Service, Former Trust Chair and Governor Matthew Martin, Dede Cassad (widow of late Chuck Walker, late President of the 2ADA), current Governor Tony Harmer. *Photo: Beverly B. Tomb.*



The mood lightened as Doug took a picture of Peter Woodcock, Eileen Hindle, Beverly Tomb, Melvyn Johnson, and Paul Hindle posing on Mel's Jeep. *Photo: Doug Tomb.*



HL President Beverly Tomb and Past President Irene Hurner are joined by a group from the American Air Museum in Duxford whose wreath was placed right next to ours at American Cemetery Cambridge. L to R: Carl Warner, Emily Charles, Jenny Cousins, Phillipa Wray, Beverly Tomb, Irene Hurner, Lucy May Maxwell, and Jeff Hawley, of the 1st Air Division HQ Heritage Society. *Photo: Doug Tomb.*



The first Heritage League wreath placed on Veterans Day at American Battle Monuments Commission Cemetery in Cambridge. It won't be the last! *Photo: Gretchen H. Derbridge.*



HL President & Memorial Trust Governor Beverly Baynes Tomb presents a gift to Trust Governor David Gurney to thank him for his support of the Memorial Trust and of the Heritage League over the years, since David is stepping down as a Governor at the end of 2015. *Photo: Gretchen H. Derbridge.*



8AFHS members from both sides of The Pond. David Crow and wife, Beverly Tomb and Gordon Richards at The Wall of the Missing. *Photo: Doug Tomb.*

Seated in the American Chapel of St. Paul's Cathedral, are Trust Governor David Sisson, his wife Penny, Trust Librarian Libby Morgan, Trust Governor for the American Embassy, Pamela Bentley and Trust Governor for the Heritage League, Beverly Baynes Tomb. *Photo: Doug Tomb.*



At St. Paul's Cafe in the Crypt, before our special Remembrance Day service are Andrew Hawker, Doug Tomb, Dede Casad, Irene Hurner, Gretchen Hurner Derbridge, Penny Sisson, David Sisson, Richard Middleton and Libby Morgan. *Photo: Beverly Tomb.*



A delighted Peter Chapman announces to the assembled group of Governors, Heritage League members and spouses that he has been named an MBE. *Photo: Beverly Tomb.*



The participants in the service on November 12, 2015 are standing on either side of the Roll of Honour. Left group: Penny Sisson, Pamela Bentley (Trust Governor from US Embassy), David Sisson (Trust Governor), Beverly Baynes Tomb (Trust Governor from Heritage League & daughter of Richard Baynes), Richard Middleton (Trust Governor Chairman), Doug Tomb, Dede Cassad (widow of Chuck Walker). Right group: Irene Biel Hurner (daughter of Albert Biel), Maria Prieto, John Prior, Peter Chapman (lay canon at St Paul's), Libby Morgan (Librarian of 2nd Air Division Memorial Library), Gretchen Hurner Derbidge (grand daughter of Albert Biel), Andrew Hawker (Trust Governor Vice-Chairman). *Photo: Graham Lacado, St. Paul's Cathedral Press Office.*

“At a time in the Christian calendar when remembrance is significant, it was good to commemorate the servicemen whose names are recorded in the American Memorial Chapel. The 2nd Air Division Memorial Trust, along with representatives of the families of the late Lieutenant Colonel Charles L. Walker, First Lieutenant Albert H. Biel, and Colonel Richard C. Baynes congregated at St Paul's to lead commemorations at this annual celebration of service and sacrifice. St Paul's Cathedral has a long-standing connection with the American people. At the east end of the Cathedral behind the High Altar is the American Memorial Chapel. This part of the building was destroyed during the Blitz of World War II and as part of the post-war restoration it was decided that the people of Britain should commemorate the 28,000 Americans who were killed on their way to, or stationed in, the UK during the Second World War. Their names are recorded in the 500-page Roll of Honour encased behind the high altar. This was presented by General Eisenhower in 1951 and a page of the book is turned every day.” —from *St. Paul's Cathedral Press Office*

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and American Battle Monuments Commission as well as a bag piper and a military band.

One of the most elegant Remembrance ceremonies was saved until the final day, November 12. We met at St. Paul's Cathedral in London at the Cafe in the Crypt (underground). We were met by Peter Chapman, the Cathedral's first Lay Canon, who led us to the beautiful American Chapel behind the High Altar where we had a special service of Remembrance officiated by The Very Reverend Dr David Ison, Dean, and The Rever-

end Canon Michael Hampel, Precentor. Following that, we were honored to sit in the Choir section of the Cathedral for Evensong. And we wrapped up a wonderful week with dinner at Strata's Restaurant where, in addition to celebrating our time together, we celebrated Peter Chapman being named a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE).

It was truly awe-inspiring to have the opportunity to honor our Second Air Division veterans and share in Remembering them with our British Allies at so many different locations.

Remembering Tony North

by Libby Morgan, Trust Librarian, 2nd Air Division Memorial Library

**Second Air Division Association
Distinguished Service Award
Presented to
ANTHONY "TONY" NORTH
In Grateful Appreciation Of
Important Contributions To The
Second Air Division Association
Las Vegas, Nevada
October 1992**

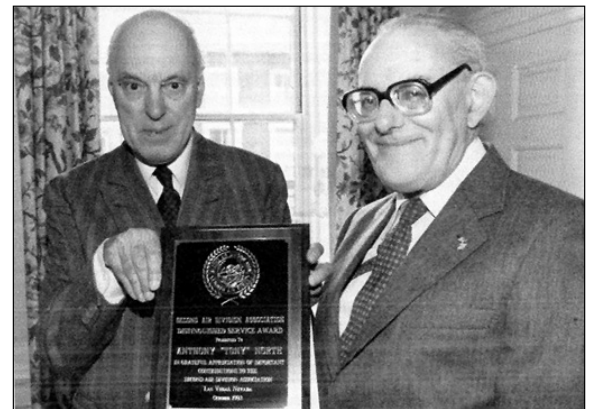
Our ex-colleague and good friend Tony North passed away on 18th December 2015. A lovely man, Tony dedicated much of his life to the 2nd Air Division Association and the Memorial Trust. He worked for the Memorial Trust for many years, welcoming veterans and their families to the "American Room" in the old Norwich Central Library. Tony was also an acknowledged expert on the B-24 Liberator, and wrote several books on the subject.

In October 1992 Tony was presented with the prestigious 2ADA Distinguished Service Award for his many years of devotion to the veterans of the Second Air Division. The following article was first published in the Spring 1993 issue of the 2ADA Journal.

As many of you know, during the Second Air Division Association's 45th Annual Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 4-7, 1992, Mr Tony North, long-time historian, guide, Norwich contact, and invaluable aide to our Memorial Trust and Library, was awarded the prestigious 2ADA Distinguished Service Award for his many years of devotion to the veterans of the Second Air Division, 8th Air Force, and our Living Memorial in Norwich.

We had hoped that Tony could be with us in Las Vegas for this presentation, but unfortunately, with failing eyesight, this was not possible. The photograph above shows Tony (right), receiving the plaque, which was carried to England by Hillary Hammond and presented by Tom Eaton (left), Chairman of the Memorial Trust, at a luncheon.

Tony commented on the occasion to a local newspaper, "This [award] means a very great deal to me. It will have an honoured place in my home." This Distinguished Service Plaque is among the first to be awarded by the 2ADA to a British recipient.



RIP, Tony North. All members and descendants of the 2nd Air Division, and their many serious researchers, have lost a prolific mentor and dear friend, with Tony's recent death. Here Tony is seen with the late Tom Eaton, legendary Governor and Trust Chair (at left) with Tony's 1993 recognition from the Second Air Division Association. *Photos via Libby Morgan.*



Here Tony is seen 'on station' in the original library facility, prior to the 1994 fire.

Upcoming Heritage League Events

Southern California Regional Brunch June 4, 2016

Galpin Ford Motors of Van Nuys, CA and the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF) will sponsor the 35th Southern California Regional Brunch of the Second Air Division, Eighth Air Force to be held on June 4, 2016 at the 94th Aero Squadron in Van Nuys, CA. The veterans along with their families and friends look forward to this annual event, and 2016, our 35th year, will be really special. All veterans and their supporters are welcome, especially those from World War II. We hope that you will join us as we mark the 72nd anniversary of D-Day and the 71st anniversary of V-E Day.

We are delighted that Bill A. Jones, who has performed the Master of Ceremonies duties and entertained the gathering for a number of years, will join us again in 2016. And we will take a musical journey back in time with The Swing Dolls, a dynamic female vocal trio that has been thrilling audiences nationwide for over 10 years with their stunning close harmonies, dazzling costumes and stylish choreography. The tradition of memorabilia displays will also 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, please contact Peggy via telephone at (818) 366-6972 or email at whiteplains38@aol.com. More details at this link: <http://www.ddayan-niversaryla.com/>

Heritage League 2016 Reunion Washington, DC Sept 14 - 18

The Annual Reunion of the Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF) will be a stand-alone event held in Washington, DC with an opening reception on Wednesday, Sept 14, and the closing banquet on Saturday evening, Sept 17, 2016.



Our reunion hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn Arlington/Courthouse Plaza, 1333 N. Courthouse Rd, Ar-

lington, VA 22201. Use Group Name: "The Heritage League of the 2nd Air Division" and Group Code HLT to get our negotiated rate. Or use this link to go directly to the special web page created for the Heritage League rooms: http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/groups/personalized/D/DCAARGI-HLT-20160914/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG

We are planning an exciting agenda that will include the Annual Business Meeting of the Heritage League, visits to the Udvar-Hazy Air & Space Museum, the National WWII Memorial, the Air Force Memorial, and a special tour of Arlington National Cemetery! A working and orientation trip to the National Archives, where Record Group 18 holds the original records of the 8th USAAF in WW II, will be of keen interest to researchers and historians, including all participating in the new "Mighty D8a" project. Instructor-guides Chris Clark and Brian Mahoney (contact info on back page) will be pleased to coach participants in advance on the feasibility of answering your specific research question.

Please mark your calendar and book your room! We look forward to seeing you.

First Time to a Convention *by Damian Fischer photos: Marybeth Dyer*

Hi, my name is Damian Fischer. I am 11 years old and from California. I live with my mom, dad, and



Damian Fischer and Sue Risley pictured at the Omaha convention, October 2015.

loving sister, Nani. Today I will be telling you about my experience at the Heritage League convention in Omaha, 2015.

It was about 3 months before the con-

vention when my Nana, Marybeth Dyer, had informed me that she would be taking a trip to Omaha, a place I am very familiar with. She has always gone away for a few days every year to go to one of these conventions



Damian and Mo Morris 453rd.

and this year I asked her if I could go with her! I was so excited when my mom and dad agreed to let me go with her. I wanted to pack up and leave so I could find out what these conventions are all about.

We arrived in Omaha by

plane and I was so excited to meet the other members of the Heritage League. The first member and a great friend to my Nana was Sue Risley. When I first started meeting new people I seemed nervous and a little shy on the inside, but I didn't show it on the outside. I started meeting more and more people, including some Veterans like Mo Morris who, in my opinion, is a very funny guy. At first he recognized my Nana and pulled out his challenge coin. Luckily, for my Nana, she had hers at the right time, but then he turned to me. Also, luckily, I had my mine so that I won't have to be paying for any drinks. After that, I started interviewing many other veterans like Mo, and I only had 4 simple questions (Name, Where they live, What bomb group they were

in, and What they did in the war). My great grandpa and Great Uncle Bob's bomb group was 458th. I have to say some these veterans told me stories that sounded interesting and almost unbelievable. One story that really caught my attention was Don O'Reilly's, who was a bombing officer in the war. If you ever meet him, ask him to tell you one of his stories.

Now was time for my first meeting. It had to feel like I was giving a speech to the entire world because I was so nervous. Although I was nervous, I was also happy. Happy to be able to vote for my Nana who is now the Membership VP. But I could not explain how excited I was to be acknowledged as a 4th generation member with Olivia in front of the Heritage League meeting.

At the banquet, it felt like a million eyeball monsters were staring right at me when Olivia and I were asked to light a candle in the candle lighting ceremony. Watching my Nana's eyes go from happy to super happy made me the happiest grandson in the world. It meant so much to me to see her this happy at the ceremony. I know that my Nana and the rest of my family back home were super proud of me. I was honored to be here meeting all these veterans and I was proud to be known as a 4th generation Heritage League member.

Overall, I couldn't be happier that I got to spend some time with my Nana and to learn from these people about the history of WWII. It is something I will never forget. I liked it so much that I want to go again next year. See you in Washington DC!



Damian Fisher (458th 4th gen) interviews 452nd BG veteran George Keating.

My Trip to Omaha With a Very Special 4th Generation

by Marybeth Dyer

Every year I look forward to the Heritage League conventions. Being on the Executive Board for 9 years I have established lifetime friendships with not only those on the Board but all who attend and have the same passion and love for the 2nd Air Division veterans we love and honor. We are comrades for a common cause.

For the first time, I brought my oldest grandson Damian Fischer, an 11-year sports-minded guy with a loving heart and a personality as big as his loving heart. He knew that he would be meeting heroes like his Great-Grandfather, Frank Birmingham, and Great-Uncle, Bob Birmingham, but he really did not have an idea of what he was going to experience and what he would walk away with when it was over.

Damian is all about sports. He breathes and eats it everyday. But every time he sees my Dad, Frank, he asks him about his experience and listens intently to his stories with great interest. So I knew Damian would be open to this convention.

My greatest pleasure was to see him exposed to all of the stories and history and meet so many people. He had an assignment to interview Veterans, not only those in WWII but Vietnam and Korean Veterans that attended and he took that assignment very seriously. He asked the questions, listened intently and wrote his notes. He learned a lot about what life was like in those times. He showed great respect to all of those he interviewed. You will see his perspective in the article he wrote.

One of the highlights of this convention that Damian and I experienced was a WWII Q & A session with great audience participation by the WWII Vets. Another was the excellent local media coverage, includ-



Damian Fischer, great-grandson of 458th veteran Frank Birmingham, and Olivia Koester, great-granddaughter of 489th veteran Robert Hall, participate in Final Banquet 8th AFHS candle lighting ceremony. Photo: Brian Mahoney.

ing our very own, Robert Hall (489th) interviewed on TV.

Next it was the Buzzing Bluffs mini-Air Show at the Council Bluffs airport. We saw the B-25, *Miss Mitchell*, P51, *Gunfighter* and P51, *Barbara Jean*. It was the first time Damian saw old aircraft up close. We had a delicious lunch and then saw the B-25 take off.

What a thrill!

The Heritage League had its annual meeting where we voted in new officers for a term of 2 years. The Executive Board is as follows: Beverly Tomb, President; Mike Simpson, Vice-President; Brian Mahoney, Secretary; Marybeth Dyer, Membership VP; Susan Risle, Treasurer; Lisa Niehoff, Communications-Newsletter; Chris Clark, VP for Volunteers.

Brian Mahoney and Mike Simpson gave a well-received presentation on "Might D8a", and you will see more in a separate article on page 3.

The Heritage League had a busy two-room hospitality suite and really enjoyed sharing this convention with the 8th AF Historical Society.

There was a great dance band at the gala banquet. Drummer Steve Jordon is the son of a 466th Veteran.

I was so proud of Damian and delighted with how he responded to this experience. I hope everyone has the opportunity to take a 4th gen like I did, and my hope is that by doing so it will allow us to continue the legacy we work so hard for.

This coming September, it will be on to Washington DC, (September 14-18, 2016) where we will be hosting a stand-alone Heritage League convention and we encourage all to join us. See you then. I am thinking you might see Damian there, too.

Omaha Reunion 2015



Sisters Irene Hurner and Barbara Mello, daughters of Albert Biel (453rd BG veteran), at the Rendezvous Bomb Group Dinner. *Photo: via Barbara Mello.*



Hey, sailor! Irene Hurner listens to two lifelike WWII 'men in uniform' at the restored Omaha Union Station, now known as the Durham Museum. *Photo: Barbara Mello.*



Burton Madison, 453rd BG, and daughter Deborah Simms-Watson. *Photo: Barbara Mello.*



Beverly Baynes Tomb, President, presents Elmo Maiden, 466th, his induction into the Heritage League Hall of Fame, as Tom Maiden (Elmo's son), and Brian Mahoney, Heritage League Secretary, join in. *Photo: Barbara Mello.*



Elmo Maiden, 466th BG, helping to "push" the Conestoga wagon out of the mud in Pioneer Park. *Photo: Barbara Mello.*

Awesome clan. Oliver "Mo" Morris (453rd BG veteran) with children Larue Carpenter, Lloyd Morris, Karen Merrell. *Photo: Wm. Craig Dubishar.*



453rd BG veterans who attended the convention: from left to right: Lewis Huisman, Russ Neatour, Oliver "Mo" Morris, Burton Madison. *Photo: Wm. Craig Dubishar.*

Russ and Nona Neatour, 453rd BG. *Photo: Barbara Mello.*





President Tomb runs a warm and efficient Heritage League Annual Business Meeting, featuring a wonderful audiovisual presentation by student Charlie Stump. *Photo: Brian Mahoney.*

Re-elected President Beverly Tomb tells members about our year of steady progress and growth. *Photo: Brian Mahoney.*



453rd veteran Burton Madison, escorted by daughter Deborah Simms-Watson, advances to light 5th candle. *Photo: Brian Mahoney*



President Beverly Tomb (466th) and Executive VP Mike Simpson (445th) in foreground; in back are vet Russell Neatrour and Nona Neatrour (453rd), Angela Koester, Robert Hall (489th vet), his great-granddaughter Olivia Koester, and his grandson Scott Koester. *Photo: Brian Mahoney.*



Beverly Tomb (466th daughter) talks to former 2ADA President, ultimate 2ADA—Heritage League Liaison, 392nd pilot Oak Mackey. *Photo: Brian Mahoney.*

Editors Note:

The Heritage Herald would like to offer a special thank-you to Wm. Craig Dubishar for contributing a number of his photographs from the Omaha Convention, October 2015. He was originally taking photographs for the 8th AFHS and was kind enough to share several with us.



Hale and Hearty. Many of the attending Second Air Division vets joined the League for dinner on group night. Front: Edith Smith (nurse), Perry Kerr (466th), Earl Wassom (466th), Bob Birmingham (458th), Burton Madison (453rd), Mo Morris (453rd), Harold Dietz (466th). Rear: unidentified, Joseph Reus (445th), Elmo Maiden (466th), Russ Netrou (453rd), Robert Hall (489th), Lewis Huisman (453rd). Photo: Brian Mahoney.



President Beverly Baynes Tomb (466th), Secretary Brian Mahoney (492nd and 467th), Past President Irene Biel Hurner (453rd), Treasurer Sue Risley (446th), Membership VP Marybeth Dyer (458th), and Executive VP Mike Simpson (445th) at the start of their second two year-term of service. Communications VP Lisa Niehoff, Past President Billy Sheely Johnson (492nd) and VP for Volunteers Chris Clark (489th and 44th) were not able to attend. Photo: via Brian Mahoney.



C-47 'Gooneybird'/Skytrain/Dakota, military workhorse transport version of legendary civilian DC-3, at superb Strategic Air and Space Museum. This one, s/n 43-48098, served into 1966! Photo Brian Mahoney.



Fans everywhere! 466th pilot, chaplain to several groups, raconteur, and 'rock star' Heritage League HLM, Earl Wassom and Helen Jordan (466th) take in the Strategic Air And Space Museum, under watch of another colorful—but artificial!—superhero. Photo: Brian Mahoney.



On group night, The Heritage League was delighted to 'host' the 466th and other small Second Air Division outfits. Clockwise from near red shirt: Tom Maiden, Elmo Maiden, Helen, Steve, Brian and David Jordon, Martha Pedersen Snyder, Jim Snyder. Photo: Brian Mahoney.



Nearest are Membership VP Marybeth Dyer and her grandson Damian. To the right, her uncle, 458th veteran Bob Birmingham, and his son, her cousin, Jim Birmingham, waving. At left, Chicagoans Kurt and Vicki Brooks-Warrior (466th) League Treasurer Sue Risley, and Dave Hart. *Photo: Brian Mahoney.*



Matthew Martin, 72, was made an MBE (Member of the British Empire) for services to the charitable sector and to the community in Norfolk. Recently retired as chairman of both the Memorial Trust of the 2nd Air Division USAF and the Norfolk Archaeological Trust, Mr. Martin, of Swardston, said he is "very touched and honored." *Photo: Marybeth Dyer.*

Dear Beverly,

I am sure most of you will have seen that Matthew was made a MBE (Member of the British Empire) in the New Year's Honours List for his work for charity, including his work for the 2AD Memorial Trust. I am sure you will agree, the award is a well deserved recognition for all the effort he has put in over the years.

*Happy New Year,
Richard Middleton*



Real Thing! 445th son Mike Simpson, himself a Vietnam USAF veteran, researcher and League's Executive VP, models a period-correct A-2 flight jacket bearing Leyland S. Simpson's 701st Bomb Squadron patch. *Photo: Brian Mahoney.*



458th vet Bob Birmingham and son Jim. *Photo: Brian Mahoney.*



Rapt attention. Laurie Bedus tells Marybeth Dyer and Vickie Brooks-Warning about her non-fiction book project. *Photo: Brian Mahoney.*



Ralph Winter (392nd Gold Star son), Laurie Bedus (former Heritage League Communications VP; 392nd Gold Star great-niece) and Belgian researcher Luc Dewez caught in a 'caption contest' candid, during Rendezvous Dinner night. *Photo: Brian Mahoney.*



Candles for Remembrance. From Emcee Marybeth Dyer's script opening our Group Rendezvous Dinner: "The 3rd candle is lit for the 'honorary Americans'—historical researchers, memorial builders and stewards, wreath-layers and gravesite adopters, in England, France, Belgium, Holland, and Germany. Their friendship is a tribute to the hard-won freedom our nations share. Their service ennobles our common effort. Lighting this candle, are Ben Jones (USAF reservist, loadmaster, naturalized citizen born near Hethel), Luc Dewez (Belgian researcher on 8th AF subjects) and John Gilbert (Norfolk Regiment veteran, longtime League friend)." *Photo: Brian Mahoney.*



Gracious and relaxed. Heritage League hospitality suite co-hostess Sue Risley, David Hart and Damian Fischer 'chill' between scheduled activities. *Photo: Brian Mahoney.*

392nd stalwarts. Gold Star niece and researcher Annette Tison, base-contact John Gilbert listen to after banquet speaker. *Photo: Brian Mahoney.*



Hethel

Photos by Gretchen H. Derbidge



Cathy Thomson, who once lived in the 466th BG HQ Building, generously shared the honor of laying a wreath for the 466th at the stone flagpole, and held the brolly to protect three of us from the dampness of the day.



Gretchen Hurner Derbidge and Heritage League member Albert Palmer visit after Hethel Remembrance Day ceremonies.



Irene Hurner and Anne Howlett, owner of the farm on which the Hethel base lies.



Cathy Thomson and President Beverly Tomb holding wreath for the Hethel Remembrance Day ceremony.

Old Bomb Group Numbers Still in Use!

by Mike Simpson & Chris Clark

Well, here we go kicking off a new year! Chris Clark (VP of Volunteers) and I have teamed up to look into the status of the fourteen bomb groups that made up the Second Air Division and what became of them. Most of the units were deactivated at the end of the war, and then went through various reorganizations and changes in mission as the years progressed.

One thing that really impressed us was the fact that out of fourteen heavy bombardment groups that made up the Second Bombardment (later Air) Division, only two groups were never reactivated.

491st BG —Activated 1 Oct 43; flew B-24's out of Rackheath, England from 11 Mar 44 to 12 Jun 45; —Inactivated 8 Sep 45

492nd BG —Activated 1 October 1943; —Flew B-24's out of North Pickenham, England from 18 Apr 1944 to 1 Aug 1944; —Flew B-24's out of Harrington, England from 5 August 1944 to 8 July 1945; —Redesignated 492nd Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) flying B-29's from 17 August 1945 to 17 October 45.; —Inactivated 17 Oct 45

Of the remaining twelve bomb groups, seven groups were reorganized/re-constituted as different organizations, but retained their legacy heraldry.

93rd BG —Activated on 1 March 1942; —Redesignated 93rd Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) in July 1945; —Redesignated 93rd Bombardment Group (Medium) in May 1948; —Inactivated 16 June 1952; —Redesignated: 93rd Operations Group on 1 September 1991; —Activated on 1 September 1991; —Inactivated 31 October 1994; —Activated on 29 January 1996; —Inactivated on 1 October 2002

389th BG —Activated on 24 December 1942; —Redesignated 389th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 20 August 1943; —Inactivated 13 September 1945; —Constituted as the 389th Strategic Missile Wing (ICBM-Atlas); —activated on 26 April 1961 (not organized); —Organized on 1 July 1961; —Discontinued and inactivated 25 March 1965

392nd BG —Constituted as 392nd Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 15 January 1943; —Activated on 26 January 1943; —Inactivated 13 September 1945; —Wing established as 392nd Bombardment Wing, Light, on 16 May 1949; —Activated in the Reserve on 27 June 1949; —392nd Bombardment Group assigned to wing as subordinate unit; —Wing and Group inactivated on 10 November 1949; —Redesignated 392nd Fighter-Day Wing on 23 March 1953 (Remained inactive); —Redesignated 392nd Strategic Missile Wing and activated on 6 October 1961; —Organized on 18 October 1961; —Discontinued, and inactivated 20 December 1961

448th BG —Constituted as the 448th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 6 April 1943; —Activated on 1 May 1943; —Redesignated 448th Bombardment Group, Heavy on 20 August 1943; —Redesignated 448th Bombardment Group, Very Heavy on 5 August 1945; —Inactivated on 4 August 1946; —Allotted to the reserve and activated on 19 April 1947; —Redesignated 448th Bombardment Group, Light on 27 June 1949; —Ordered to active duty on 17 March 1951; —Inactivated on 21 March 1951; —Redesignated 448th Fighter-Bomber Group and allotted to the reserve on 12 April 1955; —Activated on 18 May 1955; —Inactivated on 16 November 1957; —Redesignated 448th Tactical Fighter Group on 31 July 1985 (remained inactive); —Redesignated 448th Eagle Propulsion Sustainment Group; —Activated on 18 February 2005; —Redesignated 448th Combat Sustainment Group on 14 April 2006; —Redesignated 448th Supply Chain Management Group on 1 April 2008; —Inactivated 30 June 2010

453rd BG —Activated on 1 June 1943; —Inactivated on 12 September 1945; —Redesignated 453rd Operations Group on 1 June 1992 and activated; —Inactivated 1 July 1994

- 458th BG** —Activated on 1 July 1943; —Redesignated 458th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 16 August 1944; —Redesignated 458th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) 5 August 1945; —Inactivated on 17 October 1945; —Redesignated 458th Operations Group on 1 July 1992 and activated; —Inactivated on 1 July 1995; —Redesignated as 458th Air Expeditionary Group, converted to provisional status on 5 February 2001 and assigned to United States Air Forces Europe to activate or inactivate as needed; —Activated on 27 May 2004; —Inactivated on 11 June 2004; —Activated on 5 May 2006; —Inactivated on 6 June 2006; —Activated on 3 September 2006; —Inactivated on 20 September 2006; —Activated on 26 July 2007; —Inactivated on 20 September 2007; —Activated on 11 October 2007; —Inactivated on 13 November 2007; —Activated on 26 November 2007; —Inactivated on 25 July 2011
- 467th BG** —Activated on 1 August 1943; —Redesignated 467th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) in August 1945; —Inactivated on 4 August 1946

The remaining five bomb groups are currently carried on the USAF rolls as active units, either with the USAF or the USAF Reserve.

- 44th BG** —Constituted as 44th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 20 November 1940; —Activated on 15 January 1941; —Re-designated: 44th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) in August 1945; —Inactivated on 12 July 1946; —Activated on 1 July 1947 (Not manned or equipped); —Inactivated on 6 September 1948; —Re-designated: 44th Bombardment Group (Medium) and activated on 2 January 1951; —Inactivated on 16 June 1952; —Re-designated: 44th Operations Group and activated on 1 September 1991; —Inactivated on 4 July 1994; —Re-designated: 44th Fighter Group; —Activated on 9 April 2010
- 445th BG** —Established as 445th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 20 March 1943; —Activated on 1 April 1943; —Redesignated 445th Bombardment Group, Heavy on 20 August 1943; —Inactivated on 12 September 1945; —Redesignated 445th Bombardment Group, Very Heavy on 13 May 1947; —Activated in the Reserve on 12 July 1947; —Inactivated on 27 June 1949; —Redesignated 445th Fighter-Bomber Group on 24 June 1952; —Activated in the Reserve on 8 July 1952; —Redesignated 445th Troop Carrier Group, Medium on 6 September 1957; —Inactivated on 25 September 1958; —Redesignated: 445 Military Airlift Group on 31 July 1985 (Remained inactive); —Redesignated: 445th Operations Group and activated in the Reserve on 1 August 1992; —Inactivated on 1 May 1994; —Activated in the Reserve on 1 October 1994
- 446th BG** —Established as the 446th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 20 March 1943; —Activated on 1 April 1943; —Redesignated 446th Bombardment Group, Heavy on 20 August 1943; —Inactivated on 28 August 1945; —Redesignated 446th Bombardment Group, Very Heavy on 26 September 1947; —Activated in the Reserve on 26 March 1948; —Redesignated 446th Bombardment Group, Heavy on 27 June 1949; —Ordered to Active Duty on 1 May 1951; —Inactivated on 25 June 1951; —Redesignated 446th Troop Carrier Group, Medium on 11 April 1955; —Activated in the Reserve on 25 May 1955; —Inactivated on 14 April 1959; —Redesignated 446th Military Airlift Group on 31 July 1985 (Remained inactive); —Redesignated 446th Operations Group on 1 August 1992; —Activated in the Reserve on 1 August 1992
- 466th BG** —Constituted as the 466th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 19 May 1943; —Activated on 1 August 1943; —Redesignated 466th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) in August 1945; —Inactivated on 17 October 1945; —Converted to provisional status, redesignated 466th Air Expeditionary Group and assigned to United States Air Forces Central Command to activate as needed.; —Activated May 2009; —Inactivation date unknown; —Activated 26 November 2012
- 489th BG** —Constituted as the 489th Bombardment Group (Heavy) on 14 September 1943; —Activated on 1 October 1943; —Redesignated 489th Bombardment Group (Very Heavy) on 17 March 1945; —Inactivated on 17 October 1945; —Redesignated 489th Bomb Group; —Activated in the reserve on 17 October 2015

Flower Fund Update *by Chris Clark*

2016 will be the third year of the Flower Fund. The first year we had two donors; last year, we had five, with a corresponding increase in the donated total. We learned at the last Heritage League executive meeting that our President, Beverly Tomb, donated her own funds to pay for blossoms that the Heritage League provided to honor the dead in Cambridge, England.

If all of our readers gave a single dollar, we would have over \$500. I am asking for people to help fund this endeavor to honor the passing members of the Second Air Division. These men gave the ultimate sacrifice to help free Europe—their lives. We will continue to lay flowers at the 13 American Battle Monument Commission cemeteries holding our 2AD fallen. Your tax-deductible gifts in any amount will be most appreciated.



As of 2015, the Heritage League Flower Program has expanded to laying memorial flowers on Memorial Day or D-Day, at Walls of the Missing for each of the 13 overseas cemeteries holding 2nd Air Division dead, or commemorating them as missing in action. The program now also provides for wreaths over Remembrance Day in England, at the Memorial in the Marketplace in Norwich and at the Madingley Cemetery, Cambridge. —Eds.

12-7-15

Greetings –

I want to keep receiving the Heritage Herald and have enclosed a \$50 check.

Actually, I didn't know how best to fill out your form. I was not assigned to the 2nd Air Div, but was stationed at Watton, Norfolk at the 3rd Strategic Air Depot (SAD) for almost two years, 1943-45 (depot to repair and overhaul B-24s.)

Brian Mahoney knew of our 3rd SAD reunions. Every two years of locales in US and several to Norfolk. We were in contact in DC. and he put me on the mailing list for the Herald. I read it thoroughly. Even though there is much I didn't know about 2nd Air Div., but I know the geography of Norfolk (& UK) and people there. (I still keep up with families I met near the base, and their children—with reunions in UK and USA.)

I admire what you do with the Heritage League. At our last meeting of 3rd SAD (in Denver), a few of the younger generation talked about starting a HL type organization. But it didn't happen. Most of VETS were lukewarm. Now the 3rd SAD Assoc. is defunct with most having died or otherwise not available.

On your form, I checked myself as a friend of 2nd Air on VETS, because two of my best friends served as B-24 navigators. They were at different bases, but I don't remember which ones. They completed their missions and we got together at 3rd SAD and some pubs. Both died in last few years. Keep up the good work.

Wm. J. "Jud" Long

(Jud is already an Honorary Life Member, because his unit was attached to, and a critical part of, the 2nd Air Division. Jud, you are more than just a friend! —Eds).

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

Anyone Still Living from the Bert E. Young Crew #R-27 (Robert L. 'Bud' Thomas)

Francis Birmingham (Joan Davis)

Francis Birmingham (Julie A. D. Vree)

Robert D. Davis (Suane Davis Petersen)

Santo Russo (Carmelo G. Russo)

Paul R. Harwood (Richard Harwood)

Jack Dyson (Debbie Duke)

Paul and Nona Park (Jim Park)

Carl D. Peterson (Robert M. Hammond)

James L. Bruner (James Bruner)

Frederick H. Bromm (Jacque Bromm)

Tech Sgt. John Harold Leahy, 445th (Joy Etienne)

S/Sgt. Robert E. Peterson, Sr. and Lt. John Horan (Art Peterson)

Stanley L. Marr (John C. Marr)

Gen Gabriels B-24 Crew, 458th BG (John F. Curcio)

Burton H. Lenhart (Elaine Tucker)

Captain Russell C. Philpott (Janet Leavitt)

Martin T. Jarabek, Jr. (Martin T. Jarabek III)

Dwight W. Bishop (Douglas S. Bishop)

Ralph and Rachel (Anna B. Dimick)

Alexander D. Ciurczak, Captain USAF, RET, DFC (Alexis Ciurczak)

Charles A Yant (Kathy Jackson)

Robert R. Harvey (Dorothy Harvey)

Thomas A. O'Neill (Anne O'Neill)

John Horan (Beverly Tomb)

Fay E. Perkins (Merlina Perkins)

George H. Finch (Jim Turner)

IN MEMORY OF

George W. Bacon III (George Bacon)

James Arthur Adovasio (Jim Adovasio)

S/Sgt. James R. Rowland KIA (Gerard M Opitz)

3 pilots who brought my uncle back from 47 missions,

1st Lt. George W. Smith

1st Lt. Robert B McMahon

1st Lt. Louis C Confer (Christopher Clark)

Pat Ramm, 453rd friend (Irene Hurner)

2nd Lt. John H. Friedhaber (Susan Friedhaber-Hard)

Fred A. Strombom (Karen Parker)

Lt. John J. Goodwin, 392nd, "GI Jane" (John N. Goodwin)

Francisco Mercado (David Mercado)

Jack Stevens (Pam Stevens)

Lt. Ray Rhoades (Christopher R. Smith)

John H. Nacey (Susan Nacey)

Amisa Gilpatrick (Rory Gilpatrick)

1st Lt. William J. Desmond, KIA (William J. Desmond)

Franklyn Bachman (Lenore Bachman)

J. Fred Thomas (Terry Johnson)

Dean E. Moyer (Barbara Coverdale)

Robert J. Drummond (Joseph Drummond)

Gale M. Rucker, S/Sgt., USAAF (Major Stephen Rucker)

Bert E. Young Crew #R-27 (Robert L. 'Bud' Thomas)

George W. Smith (April Reed)

Col (Ret) William R. Smith (Constance L. Heffner)

Wilbur Stites (Jeane M. Stites)

Norman Canfield, Sr. (Norman Canfield, Jr.)

David E. Tuckwiller (Alice Caraol Tuckwiller)

Lt. Col. Dario de Julio, USAF (Diane de Julio)

—Folded Wings—

Leo M. Conner	11/4/15	448 th
William C. McGinley	10/2/15	392 nd
Raymond Kopecky	9/10/15	392 nd
Joseph Berry	4/9/14	392 nd
Gerald Douglass	11/27/15	392 nd
S.J. (Sandy) Elden	12/1/15	392 nd
Walter Stewart	1/10/16	93 rd
William R. Smith	12/5/15	489 th
Ira P. Weinstein	1/23/16	445 th

Omaha Ovations

We nearly succeeded in luring our hard-working Communications VP (and Herald editor) Lisa Niehoff from her demanding non-profit service work in Huxley, Iowa, to Omaha, Nebraska, for our first face-to-face introduction. Paradoxically, she is unseen but not shy, unmet but very well known, as she has spent countless hours with us on Skype, putting together newsletters since #52 (June of 2013) and a contributor since October of '09 (a researched article on the late great Ira Weinstein and the 445th BG's fateful Kassel Mission). One of her most illustrious predecessors in the editor role was Reed Hamman (492nd/466th), who knew her at work and successfully recruited her; yet another reason we remain thankful to him!

In the event, Lisa, characteristically, helped needy clients over a long weekend at her agency, instead of letting us fete and laud her. A reproduction of her recognition (right) tells the big story publicly now.

While in Omaha, we were graced with the presence of a veteran who has worked diligently to support the annual gathering—long referred to as the 2 AD Southern Californial Luncheon, but now open to all vets—and which is coordinated by Peggy Learman under League auspices. Relevant language from Elmo Maiden's 'Hall of Fame' induction: "For many years now, Elmo, you have been a participant, leader and supporter in veteran groups, welcoming others as long-serving Treasurer and Secretary in your own 466th BGA; helping with programming and even funding, of the long-running Southern California Second Air Division Luncheon; and regularly participating in the venerable, if less formal, 'Wings Over Wendy's' monthly meeting of flying veterans in southern California. Your gentlemanly comportment has been a fine example to people in your own and following generations, and reminds us—we sometimes need it!—that effective volunteer work can also be fun. We join so many of your colleagues in the organizations, in thanking you for your steadfast 'honoring and remembering.'"

The Executive Committee of
The Heritage League of the Second Air Division (USAAF)
take great pride and pleasure in conferring upon

LISA NIEHOFF
the first-ever presentation of

The Crew Chief's Award.

This award calls attention to extraordinary efforts by a volunteer in support of The Heritage League mission: honoring and remembering the services and sacrifices of members of the Second Air Division of the 8th USAAF in England during WW II. Awardees' practical efforts to present the historical, moral and cultural importance of hard-won lessons, earns them kinship to those who served.

The Crew Chief's Award is presented to individuals who, despite having no familial connection to the combatants or support personnel of the Second Air Division, conspicuously demonstrate their appreciation of that service.

Keeping complex, overused heavy bombers operational, despite ongoing battle damage, under very difficult conditions of weather and supply, while conforming to relentless performance and safety standards, ground crews were absolutely critical to bringing the fight for freedom to the enemy. The ultimate triumph is too seldom credited to the many unnamed and unseen, but tireless, competent and dedicated personnel who "kept 'em flying."

Sergeant Joe Ramirez, illustrious chief of the legendary ground crew that kept the 467th BG's *Witchcraft* operational for a record 130 missions without an abort, embodied the character and determination needed to overcome all manner of difficulties, doing whatever was required, to reliably deliver mission-critical results.

Lisa, since you first contributed to our newsletter in October of 2009, and stepped up as our Communications VP (and *Heritage Herald* Editor) in 2013, you have shown us by your positive attitude, your inspiring work ethic, and especially your stern exhortations to those who mess with deadlines, that 'you get it' about our noble cause.

You are the first-ever 'non-legacy' member to be elected to The Heritage League board. Even without the 'blood connection' which motivates legacy members, your commitment to the cause matches ours, so we are happy you have adopted us as siblings, we are grateful to call you colleague, and we are delighted to call you friend.



Beverly Baynes Tomba
President
Barbara H. Maroney
Secretary / Past President
Michael Flynn
Membership VP / Past Pres.
Billy Shelly Johnson
Past President

Michael S. Simpson
Executive Vice President
Stanley Kusley
Treasurer
Chris Clark
VP for Volunteers
Jane Turner
Past President

October 16, 2015, Omaha, Nebraska

Heritage League of
the Second Air Division (USAAF)
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